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Complete
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NFL And AFL
Previews

Gale Sayers

1966 NFL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10
Baltimore vs. Green Bay
at Milwaukee *

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11
Chicago at Detroit
Cleveland at Washington
Los Angeles at Atlanta
Minnesota at San Francisco
New York at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at St. Louis

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16
Chicago at Los Angeles*

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Baltimore at Minnesota
Detroit at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at Cleveland
New York at Dallas
Washington at St. Louis

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25
Atlanta at Detroit
Los Angeles at Green Bay
Minnesota at Dallas
New York at Philadelphia
St. Louis at Cleveland
San Francisco at Baltimore
Washington at Pittsburgh

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30
San Francisco at Los Angeles*

SUNDAY, OCT. 2
Chicago at Minnesota
Cleveland at New York
Dallas at Atlanta
Detroit at Green Bay

Pittsburgh at Washington
St. Louis at Philadelphia

SATURDAY, OCT. 8
Pittsburgh at Cleveland *

SUNDAY, OCT. 9
Atlanta at Washington
Baltimore at Chicago
Green Bay at San Francisco
Los Angeles at Detroit
New York at St. Louis
Philadelphia at Dallas

SUNDAY, OCT. 16
Dallas at St. Louis
Detroit at Baltimore
Green Bay at Chicago
Los Angeles at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Atlanta
Washington at New York

SUNDAY, OCT. 23
Atlanta vs. Green Bay
at Milwaukee
Dallas at Cleveland
Detroit at San Francisco
Los Angeles at Chicago
Minnesota at Baltimore
Philadelphia at New York
St. Louis at Washington

SUNDAY, OCT. 30
Baltimore at Los Angeles
Cleveland at Atlanta
Green Bay at Detroit
Pittsburgh at Dallas
San Francisco at Minnesota
Washington at Philadelphia

MONDAY, OCT. 31
Chicago at St. Louis*

SUNDAY, NOV. 6
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at Chicago
Los Angeles at San Francisco
Minnesota at Green Bay
St. Louis at New York
Washington at Baltimore

SUNDAY, NOV. 13
Baltimore at Atlanta
Dallas at Washington
Detroit at Minnesota
New York at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at Cleveland
St. Louis at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Chicago

SUNDAY, NOV. 20
Atlanta at New York
Baltimore at Detroit
Chicago at Green Bay
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Minnesota at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at San Francisco
Washington at Cleveland

THURSDAY, NOV. 24
(Thanksgiving)
San Francisco at Detroit
Cleveland at Dallas

SUNDAY, NOV. 27
Atlanta at Chicago
Green Bay at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Baltimore

New York at Washington
Pittsburgh at St. Louis

SUNDAY, DEC. 4
Atlanta at Minnesota
Chicago at Baltimore
Detroit at Los Angeles
New York at Cleveland
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
St. Louis at Dallas
San Francisco vs. Green Bay
at Milwaukee

SATURDAY, DEC. 10
Green Bay at Baltimore

SUNDAY, DEC. 11
Chicago at San Francisco
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Detroit
Pittsburgh at New York
St. Louis at Atlanta
Washington at Dallas

SATURDAY, DEC. 17
Cleveland at St. Louis

SUNDAY, DEC. 18
Baltimore at San Francisco
Dallas at New York
Green Bay at Los Angeles
Minnesota at Chicago
Philadelphia at Washington
Pittsburgh at Atlanta

SUNDAY, JAN. 1
Championship game in home city
of Eastern Conference Champion

*NIGHT GAME

1966 AFL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2
Oakland at Miami*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3
Denver at Houston*

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4
Buffalo at San Diego

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9
New York at Miami*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10
Oakland at Houston*
Boston at San Diego*

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11
Kansas City at Buffalo

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18
Kansas City at Oakland
Boston at Denver
Miami at Buffalo
Houston at New York

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25
San Diego at Oakland
New York at Denver

Houston at Buffalo
Kansas City at Boston

SUNDAY, OCT. 2
Miami at San Diego
Houston at Denver
Buffalo at Kansas City
New York at Boston

SATURDAY, OCT. 8
Denver at Kansas City*
Boston at Buffalo*
San Diego at New York*

SUNDAY, OCT. 9
Miami at Oakland

SUNDAY, OCT. 16
Oakland at Kansas City
New York at Houston
San Diego at Buffalo
Denver at Miami

SUNDAY, OCT. 23
Kansas City at Denver
Miami at Houston
Oakland at New York
San Diego at Boston

SUNDAY, OCT. 30
Denver at San Diego
Houston at Kansas City
Buffalo at New York
Oakland at Boston

SUNDAY, NOV. 6
Houston at Oakland
San Diego at Kansas City
Denver at Boston
Buffalo at Miami

SUNDAY, NOV. 13
Oakland at San Diego
Miami at Kansas City
Houston at Boston
New York at Buffalo

SUNDAY, NOV. 20
Oakland at Denver
Boston at Kansas City
Buffalo at Houston
Miami at New York

THURSDAY, NOV. 24
(Thanksgiving)
Buffalo at Oakland

SUNDAY, NOV. 27
San Diego at Denver
Kansas City at New York
Boston at Miami

SATURDAY, DEC. 3
New York at Oakland

SUNDAY, DEC. 4
Miami at Denver
San Diego at Houston
Buffalo at Boston

SUNDAY, DEC. 11
New York at San Diego
Denver at Oakland
Boston at Houston
Kansas City at Miami

SATURDAY, DEC. 17
Boston at New York

SUNDAY, DEC. 18
Kansas City at San Diego
Denver at Buffalo
Houston at Miami

MONDAY, DEC. 26
Championship game in
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Division Champion

* NIGHT GAME

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PRO FOOTBALL ILLUSTRATED

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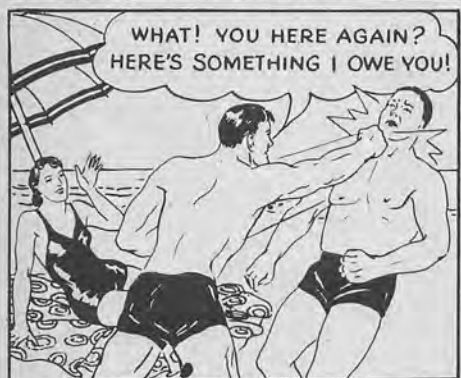
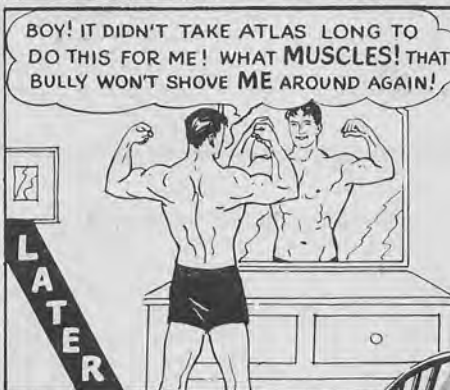
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Joe Thomas
(Personal)

SCOUTING REPORTS ON PRO FOOTBALL'S TOP RUNNERS

By Joe Thomas
(as told to Tom Fitzgerald)

An expert on the personnel in both the NFL and the AFL lists the best in each league and tells why. There are some surprises in his rankings.



In picking the best 10 runners in the National Football League and in the American Football League, I do not intend to make any inter-league comparisons.

A significant thing has struck me, though, in reading over my choices. I find that three of my first four selections and four of the 10 in the National League were acquired before the American League came into existence with the 1960 season and competitive bidding for talent began.

It suggests that maybe a fairer comparison of the two leagues would be to separate the National League into pre-1960 and post-1960 signees and measure the latter group for quality against the American League.

Since three of my top running backs in the National League—Gale Sayers of the Chicago Bears, Tucker Fredrickson of the New York Giants and Ken Willard of the San Francisco 49ers—were sensational rookies last season, it might be argued that the National hasn't suffered in landing prize running backs even since the advent of the war with the American League for college talent.

Actually, though, the American has approached equal footing in the bidding competition only since its big, rich television contract, in effect for the first time last season. In addition to giving the American more money to play with, the television revenue and recognition has won the faith of the

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joe Thomas is recognized as the nation's most astute judge of football talent. His work in building the Minnesota Vikings into an exciting NFL contender is recognized as a masterpiece in professional football circles.

His work with the Miami Dolphins has been equally exciting and productive. He was able to sign eleven of his top twenty draft choices. The 32 veterans he selected from the other AFL teams included 19 who were regulars and several who have gained All-League recognition.

Thomas, a bachelor, is a native of Warren, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1943. He holds both the Masters and Directors degrees from Indiana University. An outstanding end at Ohio Northern, he also played end for the Navy's famed Great Lakes Naval Training Center team. His coach was Weeb Ewbank. Following his tour of Navy duty, Thomas entered high-school coaching and coached football at New Albany and Rensselaer in Indiana.

Thomas began his college coaching career at DePauw where he was an assistant in football and basketball and head baseball coach. After four years at DePauw, Thomas moved to the University of Indiana to become an assistant in football and basketball.

He moved into professional football in 1954 as an assistant to his old coach Weeb Ewbank with the Baltimore Colts. He also spent time as an assistant on the staffs of the Los Angeles Rams and the Toronto Argonauts. Thomas was the first person hired by the Minnesota Vikings in the spring of 1960. While at Minnesota he signed such stars as Tommy Mason, Fran Tarkenton, Steve Stonebreaker, Paul Flatley among many others.



Superstar Jim Brown blends speed and power.



Tommy Mason's swift and is versatile back.

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by G. O. ALLEN

President, Cleveland Institute of Electronics



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college prospect in the stability and security of the league.

The draft last December was the first under this contract, but, except for Grabowski of Illinois and a couple of others, it was a poor year for college running backs. The chief bidding was for linebackers.

My experience covers both leagues as a scout and observer and student of talent. Before I joined the new Miami Dolphins of the American League as executive assistant and player personnel director last summer, I had served as personnel director for the Minnesota Vikings of the National League since their birth with the 1961 season.

In preparing myself to pick 32 players from a pool offered by the other eight clubs in the American League to stock the Dolphins, I made an exhaustive study of American players last season through attending one or two games a week and through grading all the game films.

From these experiences, I have concluded the ten best backs in each league are:

National League—(1) Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns, (2) Tommy Mason of the Minnesota Vikings, (3) Jim Taylor of the Green Bay Packers, (4) Paul Hornung of the Green Bay Packers, (5) Bill Brown of the Minnesota Vikings, (6) Gale Sayers of the Chicago Bears, (7) Charley Taylor of the Washington Redskins, (8) Tim Brown of the Philadelphia Eagles, (9) Tucker Frederickson of the New York Giants and (10) Ken Willard of the San Francisco 49ers.

American League—(1) Keith Lincoln of the San Diego Chargers, (2) Matt Snell of the New York Jets, (3) Paul Lowe of the San Diego Chargers, (4) Wray Carlton of the Buffalo Bills, (5) Cookie Gilchrist of the Denver Broncos, (6) Clem Daniels of the Oakland Raiders, (7) Billy Joe of the Miami Dolphins, (8) Odie Burrell of the Houston Oilers, (9) Bill Mathis of the New York Jets, and (10) Wendell Hayes of the Denver Broncos.

Runners are born, not made. There's very little you can teach about running. It's mostly natural, instinctive reaction to situations. Jim Brown, the No. 1 National League pick, is one of the best running backs in history. He was the rushing champ of the league for the third straight year and for the eighth time in his nine years in the NFL. He bettered 1,000 yards for the seventh time with 1544. He holds the league mark of 1,863 set in 1963. He led last season in rushing attempts (289), net yards gained (1,544), long gain (67) and touchdowns (17). He had a 5.3 rushing average, second behind Tim Brown's league-leading 5.4.

He has breakaway speed along with size. He has a great knack of feeling his way to the line of scrimmage and finding daylight. He's a slider. He slides, feels his way through. I marvel at the fact he's never really been injured in view of the frequency with

which he carries the ball. Tacklers don't seem to get a good shot at him. He's never been a destructive or a good blocker. So he's preserved his body.

I think Mason is the second best in the National League—although he was 10th statistically with 597 total yards (in 141 carries). He was third in touchdowns with 10. He has excellent speed. He ran the 100 in 9.8 in college and is a real maneuverable runner. His greatest asset is his skill in swinging out of the backfield as a pass receiver. He's the best in the league at this.



Clem Daniels



Matt Snell



Curtis McClinton



Paul Lowe



Cookie Gilchrist



Odie Burrell



Gale Sayers



Wray Carlton



Tucker Frederickson



Don Perkins



Bill Triplett



Timmy Brown



Bill Brown



Bill Mathis



Jim Taylor

He weighs only 195, but is a reckless, all-out blocker.

Taylor's distinguishing trait is his great determination. He can get that hard yardage. He's a great third-down man. He has a little deceptive move just before he hits the hole that is very effective. He made 734 yards on 207 attempts. He's a strong runner. He lacks breakaway speed, but this is not imperative in the possessive type of football Green Bay plays.

You may be surprised that I have Hornung rated so high—over faster



Paul Hornung



Ken Willard



Keith Lincoln

backs—but he has intangibles besides ability. When the bell rings, Hornung is there no matter what you read about his outside social activities. He delivers when the chips are down—as last season showed. He's an inspirational player who gives the rest of the team a lift by his mere presence. When you're around the eight and he smells paydirt, he'll take it in for you. He fits in well with the Green Bay system. He's great at setting up his blocking on that sweep. He throws well enough to keep the defense upset and is a superb blocker—one of the best in the league. He ran the ball 89 times last season for 299 yards and five touchdowns.

Bill Brown is a very deceptive runner. He hasn't great speed, but is bow-legged with a low gravity and is hard to pull down. He ran for 699 yards on 106 tries and for six touchdowns. He can run inside and outside, is a fine blocker and one of the best receiving fullbacks coming out of the backfield.

Rookie Sayers was second to Jimmy Brown in total yardage—867 (on 166 carries)—and second to him in touchdowns—14—and third in the league in rushing average—5.2. So maybe he should be higher than No. 6 in my NFL ratings. The only reason I've been him that low is that he's a rookie. Another season will show how true a runner he is. He did better than most people thought he would. Jet propulsion is his running trademark. At the moment, he's the most explosive of the runners. He'll make you miss him all day long and he'll jet out in a step or two and break a game open at any time.

Charley Taylor had ankle trouble last season, but he had a fine rookie year the season before and, in naming him No. 7 I'm anticipating he will repeat his rookie performance. He's a big back who's hard to bring down. He ran the ball 145 times for 402 yards and three scores. He's also a fine receiver.

Speed is Tim Brown's big virtue. He has the best rushing average—5.4—in the National League and was third in yardage—861 (in 158 carries). He catches the ball well on swings and does a good job with the screen pass. He's not a good blocker and lack of size is a handicap to him as a running back. He'd probably do better as a flanker despite his success as a runner.

Frederickson is one of the coming backs of the league. He had a fine rookie year, carried for 659 yards and five touchdowns in 195 attempts. He has size—6-3 and 220—and is a fine blocker, an adequate receiver and a very determined performer.

Willard was a prize rookie like Frederickson and Sayers. He also has size—6-2 and 230—and speed to go with it. He can maneuver in the secondary and is also a capable receiver. If everything goes right, he should establish himself as one of the finest backs in the league in a couple of years.

In placing Lincoln at the top among

CLEVELAND BROWNS



Cleveland's fine receiver Gary Collins, no. 86, caught 50 passes and led NFL in punting.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Jimmy Brown, efficient specialists, and a reserve corps that bolstered a lineup ravaged by injuries were the tools used by the Browns last year to gain their second straight Eastern championship.

It's a good thing, too, because this Cleveland club wasn't as sound as the world champs of the preceding season.

Brown, the superlative fullback, hurt the defenses with his running and pass catching. Lou Groza's long-range place-kicks kept them loose. And they were kept under constant pressure by the scintillating kick runbacks of Walt Roberts and Leroy Kelly. The enemy offenses were kept in the hole, meanwhile, by the booming punts of Gary Collins, ordinarily hailed as an outstanding flanker.

This was the way Cleveland did it for Blanton Collier in '65, and it must have been good. The record was 11-3 at the finish, and the Packers had to capitalize on breaks to win the playoff from a club that never really had a chance to be set.

Brown contributed by winning his eighth rushing title in nine years, gaining over 1,000 yards for the seventh time, and scoring 21 touchdowns to set a new all-time NFL career record of 110. His 1,544 yards rushing also put him over the 12,000 yard rushing milestone (12,312).

Groza, at 43 years of age, finished seventh in scoring with 93 points as he continued to set new records every time he played. The Toe converted all 45 of his extra-point attempts, and connected on 16 of 25 field goals to tie Don Chandler for second in fewest misses.

Roberts and Kelly finished fifth and eleventh in kickoff returns for a combined 1,114 yards, and first and sixth in punt returns for another 427 with Kelly leading the league.

Collins, who has continued to improve each season, won his first punting championship with a fine 46.7 average, his longest being a memorable 71 yarder. None of his 65 boots was blocked.

The Browns encountered injury problems early when Paul Warfield, the

sensational rookie of 1964, was injured in the All-Star game. Roberts, at 161 pounds the smallest man in the league, took over Warfield's split end position and did splendidly.

Sidney Williams, like Roberts a second year man, also filled the breach. He replaced Captain Galen Fiss at linebacker for six games, and later for Jim Houston when he was injured.

When middle linebacker Vince Costello was hurt in the second game of the year, rookie Dale Lindsey of Western Kentucky spelled him for two weeks. The same for Jim Ninowski when quarterback Frank Ryan was hurt, and for Kelly when Ernie Green missed the Pittsburgh game. Erich Barnes took over for Walt Beach when the defensive back recuperated for four weeks from ulcers.

The Browns did the little things well, and they all added up into a big season.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The fellow who said "figures don't lie," couldn't have been thinking about the '65 Browns. They won the Eastern championship with a team that finished no higher than No. 7 in total offense, No. 12 in passing yardage, No. 11 in rushing defense, No. 13 in pass defense, and had a quarterback who finished 12th in individual passing.

Putting their running and passing together, despite the presence of the great Brown, the Browns gained only 4,398 yards. Their passing yardage totaled only 2,067. The defense yielded 1,806 yards in rushes, a fat 4.5 average; the pass defense, 2,846 yards, with an average of 6.2 yards per completion.

Ryan, hampered somewhat by injuries, did not have a top year. He finished well down the passing list with 119 completions out of 243 attempts for a 49.0 percentage, quite a contrast from his 174-334-52.1 showing in '64.

The Browns had the habit of caving in under aggressive play. They lost only three games, but two were routs—49-13 to the Cardinals, when the Cardinals were healthy, and 42-7 to the lowly Rams late in the season after the Eastern title had been clinched. Minnesota rallied to handle the Browns easily, too, 27-17.

But, don't be fooled. The club dug in when it had to, and won the games it



Dick Schafrath



Frank Ryan



Ernie Green

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Jimmy Brown	289	1544	67	5.3	21

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Frank Ryan	243	119	49.0	1751	18	80	13	7.21

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Gary Collins	50	884	17.7	67	10



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at Washington
 Sept. 18—Green Bay
 Sept. 25—St. Louis
 Oct. 2—at New York
 Oct. 8—Pittsburgh
 Oct. 16—BYE
 Oct. 23—Dallas
 Oct. 30—at Atlanta
 Nov. 6—at Pittsburgh
 Nov. 13—Philadelphia
 Nov. 20—Washington
 Nov. 24—at Dallas
 Dec. 4—New York
 Dec. 11—at Philadelphia
 Dec. 17—at St. Louis

While defenses concentrate on stopping Jimmy Brown, halfback Ernie Green picks up good yardage with his running and receiving.

had to win to overcome its injury losses, and its unsettled state.

1966 FORECAST

Paul Warfield is back, and that means the Browns have to be better. Warfield caught 52 passes for 920 yards in '64. Last year he regained his health in time to catch exactly three. No wonder the Clevelanders had to scramble to win the title.

So, Warfield and the veteran Johnny Brewer at tight end give Collier strength at the wings. Brewer is the unsung tight-end who has played in the shadow of illustrious teammates for years. Behind them are Roberts, No. 1 draft choice, Milt Morris of Massachusetts, and Ralph Smith, the latter a five year veteran.

The interior of the offensive line is starting to show some age, but not enough as yet to cause much worry. Still, the Browns drafted heavily there to play it safe. Nevertheless Dick Schafrath (29) and Monte Clark (29) figure to open at the tackles, John Wooten (29) and Gene Hickerson (38) at the guards, and 33-year-old John Morrow at center. Behind Schafrath is Tom Talaga of Notre Dame, but the veteran John Brown is still around for experience. Two other rookies are center Fred Hoaglin, drafted No. 6, from Pitt and Gene Modzelewski, a guard from New Mexico State and last of the Modzelewski brothers.

The Browns will go to camp with four quarterbacks. Ryan is No. 1, and Ninowski doesn't figure to change that.

He may change uniforms if Art Modell can swing a trade. Nino dislikes being an understudy, though Collier certainly gave him plenty of relief work in addition to some starts.

But, the tipoff is that Columbia's Archie Roberts is going to be placed on the active list this year. That could mean Nino is definitely going on the block. Green, Collins and the incomparable Brown, playing his last year, round out the backfield.

There's lots of experience behind the first four. Not counting Nino, Collier has Kelly behind Green, Tom Hutchinson behind Collins, and Charley Scales behind Brown. Scales is a terrific runner, but he isn't terrific enough to supplant Brown as few really are.

Only three of the defensive starters are under 30. The "baby" is 24-year-old tackle Jim Kanicki. Safety Ross Fichter and linebacker Jim Houston at 27 and 28 aren't exactly kids, either. Fiss and tackle Dick Modzelewski at 35 each are the pappy guys. Costello is right behind them at 34.

The unit is old in the wrong spots, and it was hurt in the expansion draft. Atlanta plucked Larry Benz and Bobby Franklin out of the backfield. But, behind the regulars is a solid corps of young veterans just itching to take over. Several of them did in emergencies last year, and they all played exceptionally well.

For starters Paul Wiggins and Bill Glass will be at the ends, pressed by 6-4 250-pound Jim Garcia, coming up for his third year since graduating from Purdue. Modzelewski and Kanicki

form the tackles, but "Little Mo" is going to be pressured by 270-pound Frank Parker, a four year man from Oklahoma ripening into a great prospect.

Among the linebackers only Houston on the left side appears set for the full campaign. Costello and Fiss are in their mid-30's, and starting to wear. But, Lindsey and Williams almost kept this pair on the bench last year. One or both could do it this year. They don't hurt the defense when they play.

The perimeter will miss Benz, who led the club interceptions last year with five. But, Barnes, Beach, Fichter, and Parrish are solid defenders. The trouble starts after you get past them. To fill the shortage the Browns went heavily in this department, grabbing four defensive backs as free agents, drafting another, and bringing Ernie Kellerman off the taxi squad.

Here's where the Browns need real help, and here is where they might try to swing a trade involving Ninowski. You can't get by in the NFL with only four defensive backs anymore.

Overall, the Browns haven't changed much from last year when the Eastern Conference was at its weakest in years. The conference will be stronger, but not enough to knock these fellows out of their third straight playoff. With a bow to the presence of Jim Brown, and Lou Groza, plus the return of Paul Warfield.

PROBABLE FINISH: 1

DALLAS COWBOYS



Former Olympic sprinter Bob Hayes, no. 22, led the NFL by catching 12 touchdown passes.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Once Don Meredith was installed as the No. 1 quarterback, and that move came exactly at mid-season, the Cowboys completely reversed themselves and came roaring back to finish in a second-place tie with New York in the Eastern Conference.

But merely making Meredith the regular quarterback wasn't the whole story. A revision of the basic offense which featured the rollout pass was an important part, too. Both were part of the "Tom Landry Experiment" of last season, and from it will come the Cowboy offense in '66.

Meredith, the rangy, onetime South-

ern Methodist star, took to the new passing theory like an infant does to milk. He responded with 141 completions in 305 attempts for 2415 yards, and 22 touchdowns — good for the eighth-best record in the league.

His rollouts spread the defenses and gave a fine set of receivers extra catching room, among them Bob Hayes. Bullet Bob, the former Olympic sprint champion, teamed with Frank Clarke to form one of the finest pair of catchers in both conferences. Hayes led the club with 46 catches for 1003 yards and a league-leading average of 21.8 yards. His 12 touchdown catches also topped the league.

Right behind him was Clarke, the

tight end, who grabbed 41 throws for an additional 682 yards and four touchdowns. Overall, Dallas' 2339 yards on passing was only ninth but this was due mainly to offensive ineffectiveness in the first seven games prior to the change. During the last seven the club's offensive average went from 251 yards to 319.7, and the passing from 134.9 to 206.1 per game. Helping move the ball was an excellent offensive line, one still rated a year away from full fruition. Fullback Don Perkins, the strongest runner on the club, made good use of it, rushing for 690 yards in 170 trips.

The defense proved to be the basic strength of the team, however. It had balance, speed, depth, and a good blend of age and experience. The final figures showed that the Cowboys permitted only 280 points, third stingiest in the league, and were third in rushing defense with a 3.1-yard yield.

The brunt of the defense was a great front four of Maury Youmans, Bob Lilly, George Andrie and Jim Colvin, backed by middle linebacker Jerry Tubbs and safetyman Mel Renfro.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The Cowboys, in Tom Landry's own words, didn't have "that big, picture fullback, or the proven outside runner" last year, though Don Perkins is regarded as an excellent inside rusher. That was one reason why Landry shelved the standard NFL offensive plan based on the two-back (inside-outside) running and pocket-pass protection. He had to do something to loosen up the defenses, and having Meredith rollout was the only way it could be done.

The switch did generate missing punch and helped reverse a first half 2-5 record into a 5-2 second. But, the lagging start was enough of a drag, ranking the Cowboys no higher than tenth in total offense—3995 yards. Of this, the handicapped rushing game showed only 1444 yards, just 35 more than Los Angeles' league low of 1409.

It cost the Cowboys at least two games, both in the second half of the season. One was to Cleveland, which held off four Dallas pass plays inside the five en route to a 24-17 victory. The other was to Washington in a 34-31 defeat. Against the Redskins, Meredith went to his running game from in close and it drew a blank, too.



Don Meredith



Mel Renfro



Bob Lilly

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Don Perkins	177	690	43	3.9	0

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Don Meredith	305	141	46.2	2415	22	65	13	7.9

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Bob Hayes	46	1003	21.8*	82	12*

*Led League.

Good as the defense was, and the already-listed figures prove that, it did lack a good blitz, or, at least it didn't blitz enough. And that happens to be Landry's view. The Cowboys spilled the passer 39 times, a mark it shared with four other teams for fifth place. That doesn't sound too bad from a layman's view, but Landry isn't a layman.

"We really didn't blitz well," he said. "It was about the same as in '64."

1966 FORECAST

The Cowboys are primed to make their strongest challenge for the Eastern championship since the club was organized in 1960. Nevertheless, the club is far from set. Landry is still searching for a pair of big backs, and is going to try Mel Renfro at a halfback to see if the former Oregon All-America can provide some outside running. If Mel can hang onto the extra 20 pounds he'll take into camp (he hopes to report at 195), and makes it with the offense, that will open up holes in his old safety spot on defense.

"Renfro is the key in the offensive backfield," said Landry. "We'll give Mel a good tryout in early camp. If things work out, he could add a lot of excitement and flair to our offense."

The defense must also find replacements for linebacker Jerry Tubbs, who has retired, and end Maury Youmans who was drafted by Atlanta. The new Falcons also plucked halfback Perry Lee Dunn, and offensive tackle Don Talbert. Otherwise, everything is pretty well established.

Meredith goes into a season for the first time as the designated No. 1 quarterback. If Don can shake an injury jinx which has dogged him the past few years, he can make the Cowboys a big winner. Behind him are Jerry Rhome and Craig Morton.

Among the receivers, Hayes and Clarke are back, and improvement is looked for from the great Buddy Dial. Dial, one of the best flankers in the business, had an off-year in '65 when he caught only 17 passes for 233 yards. He played with injuries most of the year.

The offensive line, led by tackle Ralph Neely, has been improving steadily the past two seasons and now appears to have reached the stabilized point where it can be depended upon for results through sheer execution, rather than deception.

"There's an awful lot of size and quality there," said Landry. Along with Neely the interior boasts big Jim Boeke at left tackle, Jake Kupp and Leon Donahue at the guards, and Dave Manders at center. Behind them are such solid futures as John Niland, Tony Liscio, and Malcom Walker.

The kicking remains in the talented hands (or is it feet?) of Danny Villanueva. Danny's 41.8 punting average was only tenth best a year ago, though, and young Colin Ridgway may push him out of that job. Danny



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—BYE
Sept. 18—New York
Sept. 25—Minnesota
Oct. 2—at Atlanta
Oct. 9—Philadelphia
Oct. 16—at St. Louis
Oct. 23—at Cleveland
Oct. 30—Pittsburgh
Nov. 6—at Philadelphia
Nov. 13—at Washington
Nov. 20—at Pittsburgh
Nov. 24—Cleveland
Dec. 4—St. Louis
Dec. 11—Washington
Dec. 18—at New York

Dallas has steady Don Perkins, no. 40, at fullback, but still needs more running punch.

hit on 37 out of 38 extra-point tries, and 16 of 27 field goal attempts, which was about as good as anyone else among the top echelons. Villanueva is particularly effective just inside the 40-yard line.

"We could be wide-open and exciting," Landry enthused, "what with the rollout attack and with Renfro's wide running. I'm confident the rollout game will go, and it may prove to be the coming thing in the pro game. One thing it will do is hamper the safety blitz and other blitzing tactics which have been jamming up offenses in recent years."

To plug the gap left by Youmans at defensive left end, Landry is going to call on Larry Stephens, Willie Townes, Jethro Pugh, and Bill Sandeman. The rest of the front line will have the same dependables back.

Lee Roy Jordan has been ticketed for Tubbs' middle linebacker spot, while Chuck Howley remains at left linebacker, and Dave Edwards will work on the right. Behind them will be Harold Hayes, Russell Wayt, and Roger Pettee, all youngsters. Jordan works a lot like Tubbs, but must recover from a nagging foot injury.

The defensive backfield, a fine unit

in '65, will remain set if Renfro flunks with the offensive quartet. If he should make it, however, Warren Livingston may move to strong safety, with Don Bishop going into Livingston's right corner. Obert Logan will be the free safety. Cornell Green is a solidly established pro at the left corner.

The experiment with Renfro on offense must be regarded as a calculated gamble, however. Mel has denied opponents between five and six touchdowns a year by catching receivers from behind. His extraordinary speed made him an extremely effective harassing weapon against all types of receivers.

By playing Renfro on defense the Cowboys were also able to exploit his speed on kick returns. He ran 21 kickoffs back in '65 for 630 yards, including a 100-yarder for a touchdown. He was No. 4 in the league. He teamed with Hayes on punt returns, running back 24 for 145 additional yards. Add his 92 yards on two pass interceptions, one a 90-yard scoring romp, and Renfro's "1965 total offense" comes to a whopping 867 yards in 41 chances. The question is, can the defense afford it?

PROBABLE FINISH: 2

NEW YORK GIANTS

—quite an accomplishment in this age of freewheeling offensive platoons.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The Giants suffered a series of critical injuries to key players last year, and were unable to plug the holes they created.

Among those who were lost for most of the season: offensive tackle Jim Moran and defensive tackles John Lovetere and Roger LaLonde. Safetyman Patton, offensive end Del Shofner, center Greg Larson and halfback Thurlow also were hobbled by ailments while Carl Lockhart played despite a bone spur on his foot. All but Shofner underwent surgery in the off-season and have been pronounced fit for '65.

Inexperience was another handicap. With so many rookies in the starting lineups of both platoons, the Giants got hurt by costly mistakes. Also, Morrall, despite his contributions, needed the entire '65 campaign to fully adjust to Sherman's offensive patterns.

Thus, New York was inconsistent, scoring some surprising victories — namely, two over the Eagles and two over the Cardinals—but losing some games it should have won.

Too, the Giants' placekicking was miserable. Rookie Bob Timberlake, Andy Stynchula, Chuck Mercein and Jerry Hillenbrand were able to connect with only four field goals in 25 attempts. Timberlake, in fact, hit on only one of 15 tries. Stynchula's three for seven was the best.

1966 FORECAST

Sherman's "great leap forward" in 1965 should continue in '66, but even he doesn't expect it to be as great. "All things considered, we're still a young and inexperienced ballclub," Allie says. "The nucleus of a fine team is there, but we can't do it with mirrors. It will take time."

Nevertheless, the Giants figure to be strong contenders for the Eastern championship. Maybe they won't win it. They probably won't. But, the Marahren should have a lot to say about who does. How much depends on the continued improvement of the Baby Bull backfield, which finished sixth in team rushing a year ago; of Emlen's Gremlins in the defensive backfield; and, of the ability to create some line depth.



Veteran quarterback Earl Morrall, no. 11, led the Giants to respectable 7-7 year in 1965.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

The patsies of 1964 turned into the surprises of 1965, storming back from an abysmal 2-10-2 mark to a 7-7 split. It was good for a second-place tie with Dallas.

Big man in the regeneration was quarterback Earl Morrall, a 31-year-old refugee from three NFL clubs. Earl didn't join the club until two weeks before the start of the regular season following a trade with Detroit. Yet, despite his strange surroundings, Morrall quickly established himself as the new team leader and proceeded to restore a balanced offensive punch that had been missing since the departure of the great Y. A. Tittle.

"No two ways about it," Coach Allie Sherman said. "We couldn't have done it without Earl. I doubt if anyone will ever really appreciate his contributions."

What were they? Well, he completed 22 touchdown passes, a figure surpassed only by Johnny Unitas and

John Brodie, and finished fifth among the league quarterbacks with 155 completions in 302 tries for 2,446 yards. He had a 51.3 completion percentage and only 12 interceptions.

Morrall's passing threat also enabled the Giants to unload an effective running game sparked by the No. 1 Baby Bull of the backfield, Tucker Frederickson. The former Auburn All-American finished eighth in the league in rushing with 659 yards on 195 carries, the best by a New York back in five years. Right behind him was Steve Thurlow, who had 440 yards in 106 trips. Thurlow was a sophomore in '65.

Defensively, there was tremendous speed in a young backfield dubbed "Emlen's Gremlins," after defensive coach Emlen Tunnell. Tunnell recruited the speedsters and they were carefully blended in with veterans Jim Patton and Dick Lynch. The linebacking of Jerry Hillenbrand was a bright spot late in the season. The defenders limited six opponents to 15 points or less



Homer Jones



Roosevelt Brown



Jerry Hillenbrand

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Tucker Frederickson	195	659	41	3.8	5

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Earl Morrall	302	155	51.3	2446	22	89	12	8.10

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Joe Morrison	41	574	14.0	46	4

Then, too, there are those walking wounded of '65 who must make physical comebacks, namely center Greg Larson and LoVetere.

Though surrounded by such intangibles Sherman does have a strong shoulder—maybe arm is more accurate—to lean on for an entire season this time. It belongs to Morrall the quarterback.

"Last year Earl taught our young running backs and pass receivers poise," said Sherman. "He gave them stability. He made them believers that they could win in the NFL."

He made believers out of Frederickson and Thurlow who should be even stronger as a one-two running punch this year. Right behind them is Ernie Koy, the 6-2 225-pound Texas All-America who confined his work to punts most of his rookie season, but then flashed so brilliantly in the final two games when Thurlow was hurt.

Sherman has said he'd like to use all three in the same backfield at once. He can't. But, he intends to give them all plenty of work this year. Collectively this trio has size, speed, and physical toughness.

The placekicking will be stronger. Mercein was handicapped by a pulled leg muscle most of '65 when Timberlake, a third-string quarterback behind Morrall and Gary Wood, was pressed into service. A healthy Mercein will

again revive the Giants as a scoring threat inside the 35-yard-line.

Morrall's targets will again be headed by Joe Morrison, the dependable all-purpose veteran, who caught 41 for 574 yards last year; the amazing Homer Jones, one of the fastest men in the league; and tight end Aaron Thomas. Jones, the former Texas Southern flash, broke open three games all by himself last year en route to catching 26 passes for 709 yards. His 27.3 yards per catch was the best in the league. Thomas collared 27 for 631 yards. Frederickson and Shofner added 24 and 22 apiece.

The offensive line presents a contrasting problem. It doesn't boast the depth mentioned in the backfield and the receiving corps. Bookie Bolin and Pete Case give the Giants a pair of fine guards. Center is all right, too, with either Larsen or Bob Scholz. Tackle is the big problem. Rosey Brown is 34 years old, and slipping. Frank Lasky, the other starter, was picked by Atlanta in the draft. That leaves only John McDowell, a reserve, and Francis Peay, the No. 1 draft choice from Missouri.

The defensive line hinges a great deal on LoVetere's comeback, since he and end Jim Katcavage are the only holdovers. Stynchula was traded to Baltimore and Atlanta drafted Roger Anderson. So, Sherman must find an

end and tackle from Lou Slaby, the ex-linebacker, and rookies Don Davis, Bill Briggs, Charlie Harper, Bill Matan and Jim Fulgham.

All are big men. Slaby is 6-3 245; Davis, from L.A. State, 6-6, 255; Briggs, from Iowa, 6-3, 230; Harper, from Oklahoma State, 6-2, 248; Matan, from Kansas State, 6-4, 240; and Fulgham, from Minnesota, 6-6, 282!

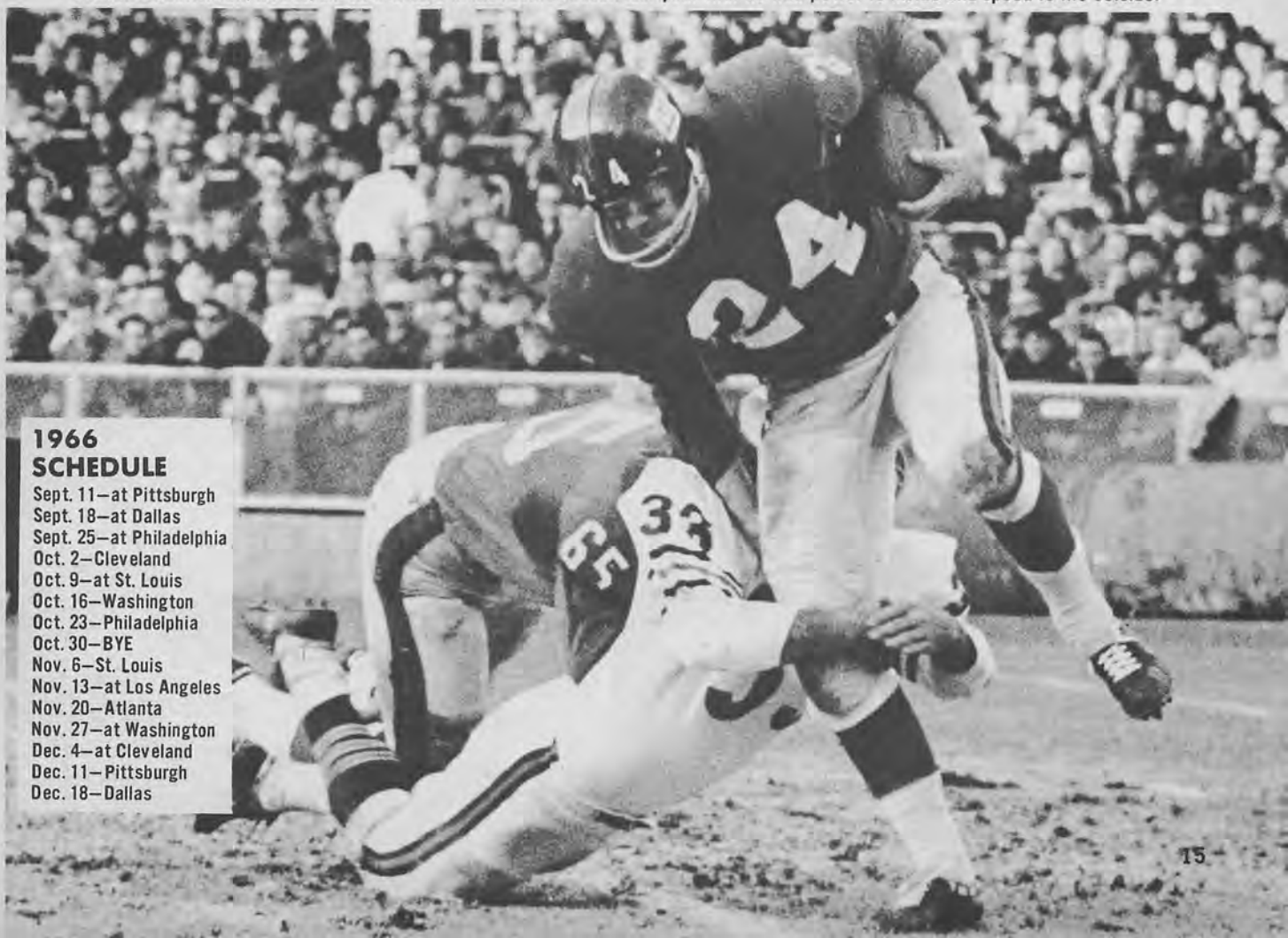
The linebacking will be centered around Hillenbrand flanked by a pair of second-year men in Olen Underwood and Jim Carroll. There are also three promising youngsters behind them. There will be depth in the perimeter where veterans Patton, Lynch and Wendell Harris, picked up from Baltimore in the Stynchula trade, offer experience and speed. There's more speed, lots of it, from the Gremlins—Henry Carr, Spider Lockhart, Clarence Childs and Willie Williams. Carr and Lockhart were starters as rookies.

Sherman's rebuilding job isn't as diverse as it was a year ago. But, some of it remains to be done, especially in the two lines. That explains why the Giants went after big linemen in the draft. In '65 they needed backs and got them. They tried to do the same with front men this time.

The results will be known in December.

PROBABLE FINISH: 3

Tucker Frederickson, no. 24, showed Giants in his rookie season last year that he had power to inside and speed to the outside.



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at Pittsburgh
Sept. 18—at Dallas
Sept. 25—at Philadelphia
Oct. 2—Cleveland
Oct. 9—at St. Louis
Oct. 16—Washington
Oct. 23—Philadelphia
Oct. 30—BYE
Nov. 6—St. Louis
Nov. 13—at Los Angeles
Nov. 20—Atlanta
Nov. 27—at Washington
Dec. 4—at Cleveland
Dec. 11—Pittsburgh
Dec. 18—Dallas

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



Charley Johnson, no. 12, is a skilled quarterback, but injuries slowed him down in 1965.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

On this ballclub the name of the game was passing, and when Charley Johnson was healthy he showed the rest of the league why. But a shoulder injury idled him frequently enough in the last half of the season that not only denied him a shot at individual passing honors, but also sent the Cardinals right out of contention.

Nevertheless, Johnson and Buddy Humphrey, his understudy, combined to give the team an outstanding aerial record. With some help from third-stringer Terry Nofsinger, the Cardinal quarterbacks hit on 221 pass completions, fifth best in the league, and the passing yardage of 3,222 was third best.

Johnson got off to a tremendous start, firing 11 touchdown passes in the first four games, including six in the second game of the season against the Browns. The effects of his shoulder trouble slowed this pace perceptibly but he still finished with 155 completions out of 322 attempts for 2,439 yards and 18 touchdowns.

The top receivers, Sonny Randle and

Bobby Joe Conrad, were among the best. In fact, only one other club, San Francisco, was able to put two receivers among the top ten. Dave Parks of the 49ers was the champ with 80, and Bernie Casey fifth with 59. Conrad was next with 58 for 909 yards, and five touchdowns. Randle was ninth with 51 for 845 yards and nine touchdowns—three in the rout over Cleveland.

Johnson had good secondary targets in Jackie Smith (41), Bill Triplett (26), and Willis Crenshaw (23). The latter two teamed up to give the Cards an adequate running game, too. Triplett finished ninth with 617 yards in 174 trips. Crenshaw was 18th with 437 in 127 trips.

The pass defense was another outstanding department. Its 48.4 percent completion yield was the second best in the league, the yardage yield of 2,826 the fourth. Larry Wilson was fourth in interceptions with six for 153 yards and one touchdown. Three came against Cleveland, including the scoringswipe, which came off a brilliant 96-yard runback.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Despite its great passing attack, St. Louis lacked scoring punch in '65. Maybe it was the rash of injuries, or maybe the player discontent which flared into near-open rebellion at times over the front office's alleged pampering of highly paid taxi squad members.

Whatever it was, the Big Reds produced only 296 points, ninth in the league, and they were only tenth in touchdowns with 25. The pass rush, even with the club's patented safety blitz, wasn't as strong as the year before. Enemy throwers were nailed only 39 times, a figure shared by three other teams as fifth best.

The club lacked depth on both platoons, at least enough to overcome effectively the losses of Johnson, Larry Stallings, Prentice Gautt, Joe Childress, Bill Thornton, Jerry Stovall, Billy Gambrell, and Luke Owens—to mention the more prominent ones—on injuries.

The ranks were so ravaged by mid-season that the team went into a nose-dive, losing its last six games en route to a 5-9 record. A tie against Cleveland in the finale was ignored when the Cards passed up a sure field goal from short range by dependable Jim Bakken in favor of a touchdown bid. It failed, and the Browns won a 27-24 squeaker.

And that raises another point. The lack of depth also created a lack of staying power. Five games were lost by seven points or less, two to teams easily handled in first meetings. Most of these were lost in the late stages of play. In the 21-17 victory over Pittsburgh, though the Cardinals' showed they could strike quickly in the clutch. They scored in the final 37 seconds when Johnson passed to Gambrell on a 59-yard play.

1966 FORECAST

Here's another team with a new coach. He's Charlie Winner, a 41-year-old native of New Jersey who's returning to the city where he got his coaching start. After graduating from Washington University of St. Louis he stayed on as an assistant coach.

The bulk of his career, 12 years of it, was spent as an assistant with the Baltimore Colts. He coached ends, defensive backs, and overall defense while



Bobby Joe Conrad



Larry Wilson



Bob DeMarco

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg. TD
Bill Triplett	174	617	59	3.5 6

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Charley Johnson	322	155	48.2	2439	18	78	15	7.57

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Bobby Joe Conrad	58	909	15.7	71	5



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—Philadelphia
 Sept. 18—Washington
 Sept. 25—at Cleveland
 Oct. 2—at Philadelphia
 Oct. 9—New York
 Oct. 16—Dallas
 Oct. 23—at Washington
 Oct. 31—Chicago
 Nov. 6—at New York
 Nov. 13—at Pittsburgh
 Nov. 20—BYE
 Nov. 27—Pittsburgh
 Dec. 4—at Dallas
 Dec. 11—at Atlanta
 Dec. 17—Cleveland

Bill Triplett, no. 38, is a competent back whose presence makes it impossible for defense to concentrate solely on rushing Johnson.

working under both Weeb Ewbank and his successor, Don Shula.

Winner is planning no wholesale shakeup of the Cardinals.

"As a first year coach I intend to move slowly for awhile," he said. "Coming from the Western Conference it'll take time to familiarize myself with the personnel. However, from what I've seen on the films, I know we have outstanding personnel who can play outstanding football."

Winner wants to bolster the bench while leaving the club pretty much set as it was a year ago when, following a second-place finish in '64 and a thumping of Green Bay in the Playoff Bowl, it was picked to win the Eastern title.

Post-season surgery has restored Johnson, Thornton and several of the others to full health. The remainder were reported fully recovered from their assortment of sprained ankles, twisted knees, and painful muscle pulls.

A healthy band of Cardinals means a solid, exciting team to go with a brand new 50,000-seat stadium in the Mound City. Johnson will have Triplett and Childress with him in the backfield as running backs, and Conrad on the flank.

Up front will be Randle and Jack Smith at the ends, Bob Reynolds and

Ernie McMillan at the tackles, Irv Goode and Ken Gray at guards, and Bob DeMarco, the perennial All-Star, at center. This is a young unit, still coalescing.

The defense again appears well set with Joe Robb, Sam Silas, Owens and Don Brumm up front, Stallings, Dale Meinert, and Bill Koman at the linebackers, and Pat Fischer, Jimmy Burson, Wilson and Stovall in the backfield.

Helping both units with his gifted toe will be Bakken who ran his consecutive game scoring streak to 42 in '65, and his consecutive conversions to 177. Both are Cardinal records, and the 177 straight extra points is also a league record.

Bakken does it all as a kicker. Field goals, extra-points, punts, and kickoffs. And, sometimes he forgets himself and spills an enemy ball-carrier, or plants a solid block on somebody. His foot can do much to keep the pressure on the enemy, especially if his own club stays healthy. It was pretty frustrating for Bakken a year ago.

Supplementing the starters is a promising group of youngsters who saw occasional action a year ago. The best of these are linebacker Dave Simmons, flanker Ray Ogden, and defensive end Ed McQuarters. From the taxi squad

are guard Frank Roy, offensive tackle Chuck Brooks, defensive end Glenn Sasser and linebacker John Meyer. Winner considers them excellent prospects.

Then, there's a fine crop plucked from the college draft. Among the best are defensive tackle Harold Lucas of Michigan State, defensive end Dave Long of Iowa, defensive backs Harlan Lane of Baylor, and Jimmy Heidel of Mississippi; offensive halfbacks Johnny Roland of Missouri and Roy Shivers of Utah State; offensive tackle Jim Brown of Nebraska, fullback Charlie Bryant of Allen University, and quarterback Gary Snook of Iowa.

"I know the Eastern race will be a difficult one," Winner said, "but, I think we can stay in there and challenge if we get our share of the breaks, and if we can avoid a second straight high toll on injuries."

The Cardinals are definitely a dark-horse team, and one which could surprise and take it all in the East. But there are still some intangibles Winner has to straighten out—especially the morale of the players. If he succeeds in the latter, and there's no reason to think he won't, it'll definitely tighten the Eastern race.

PROBABLE FINISH: 4

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

The Redskins had their troubles last year, but passing wasn't one of them. How could it be with Adolph (Sonny) Jurgensen at quarterback throwing to a fleet of speedy receivers like Bobby Mitchell, Charley Taylor, Pres Carpenter and at least four others?

Jurgensen, the nine-year veteran with the quick release, finished only tenth among the league's passers, and he was even benched for a game or two. But Sonny still enjoyed a respectable season. He completed 190 out of 356 throws for 2367 yards, 15 touchdowns and a 53.4 completion percentage. His completion total and number of attempts were second only to San Francisco's John Brodie. Jurgensen's completion percentage was fifth best.

Mitchell was again one of the better receivers. The flashy flanker finished fourth with 60 catches for 867 yards and six touchdowns. It was the fourth straight year that All-Pro Bobby topped the Redskins in this department, and also the fourth straight year in which he caught at least 60.

But Bobby wasn't the only catcher. Charley Taylor, the running back, kept the defenses guessing with 40 receptions that gained 577 yards. Then there were five others with 16 or more catches apiece, including split ends Pat Richter (16) and Angie Coia (18) and tight ends Carpenter (23) and Jerry Smith (18). Even Danny Lewis, a fullback, caught 23.

This well-balanced aerial strength was backed by a great defense, probably one of the toughest in both conferences. It led the NFL in five departments, tied for first in another, finished second in five, and tied for second in another. Among the more noteworthy: fewest opponent first downs by passing (101), fewest opponent pass completions (161), most yards lost by opponents attempting to pass (422), and average yards yielded on punts returned (4.2).

The defense, led by Sam Huff and Paul Krause, also tied Green Bay for the interception title with 27. It also tied Detroit for second in total yards permitted (3870) and had undisputed possession of second place in the number

of times enemy passers were thrown for losses (45).

The defense has been improving steadily, anyway, coming from 12th in 1963 to fourth in 1964, and now second.



Sonny Jurgensen is a top-grade pro passer.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

To win you've got to score, and to score often enough, you've got to have offensive balance. The Redskins had trouble producing both. They finished 13th in scoring, 14th in rushing, and were in a three-way tie for tenth in total offense. Little wonder they lost their first five games of the season, and ended with a poor 6-8 mark for fourth in the Eastern Conference.

Their 257 points were better only than the 202 by Pittsburgh. And their rushing yardage of 1037 was the lowest by far, trailing Pittsburgh in 13th place by 341 yards. As an added illustration of its futility, the club ground out only 69 first downs by rushing, also the poorest record among the 14 teams.

A pre-season ankle fracture suffered by Charlie Taylor, and a similar injury in the first game to fullback Rick Casares, unhinged the attack and it never really got started after that. With no running weapons handy most of the time, an added strain was placed on Jurgensen's arm, and Dick Shiner's, too. Shiner understudied Jurgensen for the second straight season.

Danny Lewis, picked up from Detroit at the start of the pre-season exhibitions, took over for Casares at

fullback and did a creditable job. The loss of Rick marked the second straight year a Washington fullback was injured in the season opener. In 1964 Don Bosseler went to the sidelines.

To Lewis' and Taylor's credit, they played well under the circumstances. Taylor, when his ankle felt well, ran effectively enough for 402 yards in 145 trips. That topped the club. Lewis was next with 348 yards in 117 trips.

Compounding the difficulties was an off-year by Bob Jencks, the placekicking specialist. Jencks hit on only ten of 22 field-goal tries and missed four of 29 extra-point tries. His 59 points, though topping the club, were 12 under the 71 by veteran Jim Martin in 1964. Martin was the team's placekicker that year.

Some of the blame for the erratic offense goes to the line, of course. It was often outcharged. The blocking wasn't too consistent, either. But, then, to become inspired an offensive line must work with the knowledge that it has the backs to spring loose. This it didn't have a year ago.

1966 FORECAST

Bill McPeak, the gentle giant is gone. Otto Graham is in. So, there'll be a brand new look to the Redskins this year. Graham, signed to a ten-year, \$50,000 a year contract, as head coach and general manager, has already overhauled the coaching staff, bringing in a flock of his former Cleveland Browns teammates to join Ed Hughes, the defensive coach, the lone holdover. He's also strengthened the scouting system, which has been integrated into the Central Eastern Personnel Organization. The CEPO includes six other teams.

Having sized up the club through extensive film studies, Otto hopes to plug the hole at fullback and to strengthen his linebacking. He's indicated a willingness to trade, but insists "trades will be made when equitable, and not merely for the sake of making a trade."

Otto, who guided the Cleveland Browns to their greatest hours with destiny under Paul Brown, plans to use a balanced attack, as what coach doesn't anymore? That's why he wants a strong fullback to complement Charlie Taylor's running, and Sonny Jurgensen's arm.



Charley Taylor



Sam Huff



Bobby Mitchell

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Charley Taylor	145	402	39	2.8	3

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Sonny Jurgensen	356	190	53.4	2367	15	55	16	6.5

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Bobby Mitchell	60	867	14.5	80	5



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—Cleveland	Nov. 6—at Baltimore
Sept. 18—at St. Louis	Nov. 13—Dallas
Sept. 25—at Pittsburgh	Nov. 20—at Cleveland
Oct. 2—Pittsburgh	Nov. 27—New York
Oct. 9—Atlanta	Dec. 4—BYE
Oct. 16—at New York	Dec. 11—at Dallas
Oct. 23—St. Louis	Dec. 18—Philadelphia
Oct. 30—at Philadelphia	

Washington safety man Paul Krause shows why he's been All-Pro both years in the NFL. He intercepts pass to thwart Cleveland score.

He's well set at split end and flanker where he has Richter, Coia and Mitchell. Pat and Angie alternated at starting last year, and Otto may follow that plan again since there was nothing wrong with the Washington aerial game.

There may be a change at tight end, though. Carpenter was being pushed hard by Jerry Smith, a rookie he helped instruct last year. Smith started the last five games in '65, and established himself as an excellent prospect. Then there's Mitch Zalansky, a rookie from Pitt, who comes with impressive credentials.

The offensive line will be revamped by the new line coach, Mike McCormack. Len Hauss at center is okay, one of the best, in fact. There are four capable guards available, too, in veterans Vince Promuto, Darrell Dess, Don Croftcheck and Bob Reed. But, at tackle, there is no depth behind Jim Snowden and Fran O'Brien. Rookies who may get a shot are Don Lynch of Duke, Joe Bellas of Penn State, Joe Lilly of Holy Cross, and Tony Bucino of William and Mary.

On paper the offensive backfield belies its 1965 record. Jurgensen and Shiner give Washington depth and experience at quarterback. A healthy Charlie Taylor ranks with the best halfbacks in the league. But the guess-

ing game continues at fullback. Lewis is gone. Atlanta's got him.

George Hughley, a pleasant surprise last year, might be the man. Signed as a free agent the day before the first exhibition game in '65, George, who played collegiately at Central Oklahoma, had a 4.7 rushing average—best on the team—carrying 37 times for 175 yards. He also caught nine passes for 93 yards and one score. He's a dangerous, strong runner, as shown by his 295 yards in 13 kickoff runbacks.

Some of the rookies available as running backs are Tom Barrington of Ohio State and Gerald Rudelitsch of Wake Forest. Signed as a free agent was Bob Ferguson, the former All-America fullback at Ohio State who failed in his first try with Pittsburgh.

Except for minor alterations, the defense will have the same cast this year, and probably will be even tougher. The front four will boast John Paluck and Carl Kammerer at the ends and Joe Rutgens, Ron Snidow, and Fred Williams at the tackles. If Paluck retires (as he's promised), Snidow can take over his spot. He's played plenty of end himself. There's a rich rookie crop, too, headed by No. 2 draft pick Walter Barnes of Nebraska at tackle, and No. 5 pick Dick Lemay of Vanderbilt at end.

Only Sam Huff returns among the linebackers. West Virginia Sam is still tops at the middle spot, too, but Jim Carr has returned and John Reger and Bob Pellegrini have gone into coaching. Chris Hamburger, who made a great impression at right linebacker replacing Carr in '65 when Jimmy was injured, figures to handle that spot. The left side remains open and the only experienced man there is Willie Adams, a sub last year.

The defensive backfield will have the brilliant Paul Krause, Lonnie Sanders, and Jim Shorter back from among the regulars. Johnny Sample has retired, and a replacement must be found for him at a corner. Rickie Harris, who had a fine rookie year, looks like the man. Krause, an All-Pro safety in both of his first two years as a pro, tied for third in interceptions last year with six, after leading the league with 12 in 1964. There are some good rookies around, too. The Washington perimeter could become one of the finest ever in the NFL.

Washington should, under Graham, produce livelier football. But Otto isn't going to go all the way as a rookie coach. He's got to get himself installed first. At best he has a darkhorse club which might surprise.

PROBABLE FINISH: 5

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES



Versatile Timmy Brown, no. 22, accounted for 1602 yards with runs and pass receptions.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

The Eagles, working on the second year of Coach Joe Kuharich's long-range rebuilding program, put together one of the strongest offensive platoons in both conferences last year. But, injuries to quarterback Norm Snead plus defensive deficiencies killed the Quakers' hopes for a high finish early.

Nevertheless, the offense was extremely well-balanced for a club which could finish no higher than a tie for fifth with St. Louis at 5-9-0. It boasted depth, including quarterback where King Hill and young Jack Concannon adequately spelled Snead when big Norm was on the ailing list, speed, and a nice blend of youth and experience.

All this produced 363 points, fifth best in the league, on 26 rushing touchdowns, and 22 by passing for an output of 48. The rushing figure was second high, and the overall total was third best. Not bad for fifth-placers!

Generating this striking power were halfback Tim Brown, fullback Earl Gros, tight end Pete Retzlaff, and left end Ray Poage among others, plus able assistance from some fine reserves

like the veteran Ollie Matson.

Brown, perhaps, was the most versatile. Playing on weak ankles Timmy made a fine comeback with a total offense of 1,602 yards. He rushed 158 times for 861 yards to finish third, added another 682 on 50 pass receptions, and 59 more on seven kick returns. Gros supplied 479 yards on 145 rushes while Retzlaff, who seems to improve with age, grabbed 66 passes for 1,190 yards and ten touchdowns to finish third behind Dave Parks of San Francisco and Tommy McDonald of Los Angeles. Poage, and flankers Glenn Glass and Ronnie Goodwin were other dependable receivers. Poage caught 31 passes for 612 yards, Glass (15) and Goodwin (18) grabbed 33 between them for a combined 453 yards.

With this wide variety of receivers Snead had a commendable year in spite of his injuries suffered in the third game against Cleveland. The former Wake Forest star finished seventh best on 150 completions out of 286 attempts and 2,346 yards.

The Eagles, thanks to their strong passing game, had the second best

aerial attack in yardage (3188) and third best in pass completions (223).

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The Eagles were losers because they had defensive troubles. Of their nine defeats, eight were by ten points or less. Of these one was by four points, and three by two. With a little tighter containment work, the season conceivably could have been turned around.

After bowing to the champion Browns by 18 points in their first meeting, the Eagles dropped heart-breakers to New York (35-27), Pittsburgh (20-14), Washington (23-21), Cleveland (38-34), Baltimore (34-24), Dallas (21-19), and Detroit (35-28). Earlier there had been a two-point loss to the Giants at home (16-14).

The defense yielded 243 first downs, fourth highest; 2,836 passing yards, also fourth highest, and managed to nail enemy passers only 37 times for 287 yards in losses, just tenth best.

The defensive end play could be faulted here. It didn't put enough pressure on the enemy, and the linebacking wasn't what it should have been. Paradoxically, the defensive backfield played well. Nate Ramsey's six pass interceptions were third best.

It would be unfair, however, to place all of the blame on the hard-working defenders. The offensive line was thin, and the loss of Snead in the middle of the season or thereabouts, hurt, too. Fumbles and other errors at critical points handicapped the Philadelphia cause also. One on a punt turned the first game against the Browns around, and another occurred when the snap was bobbled on an extra point try.

Place-kicker Sam Baker was bothered by leg trouble and this also handicapped the Eagles. A sound Baker is an almost automatic threepoints inside the 40, but last year Sam connected on only nine of 23 field goal bids. He missed three of 38 extra point tries, and need anymore be said about one of the reasons for those close defeats?

1966 FORECAST

The draft list, and an off-season trade show where Kuharich's thinking lies. His No. 1 pick was Randy Beisler, a great defensive end from Indiana. The No. 2 pick was Gary Pettigrew, another standout defensive end, from



Earl Gros



Pete Retzlaff



Timmy Brown

LEADING RUSHER								
	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD			
Tim Brown	158	861	54	5.4	9			
LEADING PASSER								
	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Norm Snead	288	150	52.1	2346	15	78	13	8.15
LEADING RECEIVER								
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD			
Pete Retzlaff	66	1,190	18.0	78	10			

Stanford. The No. 3 man was flanker Ben Hawkins from Arizona State.

Then, there was an off-season trade which sent veteran linebacker Maxie Baughan, who hadn't missed an Eagle game from the day he broke into the lineup in the 1960 championship year, to Los Angeles for offensive tackle Frank Molden and linebacker Frank Brown.

These moves, Kuharich feels, are mere steps in a program to shore up weak spots that helped bring about last year's ills. There will be others, of course, but these indicate Jumbo Joe doesn't believe there's really too much wrong with his ball club—certainly not enough to deny it a strong shot at the Eastern title.

His offensive backfield is set, and has another year of experience with Snead at quarter, Brown and Gros as the runners, and Glass, Goodwin, and Hawkins battling for flanker. This latter spot is where Kuharich wants a standout. Almost every club in the league has one except the Eagles.

Retzlaff and Poage will again man the wings, but Pete's age (34) naturally makes him suspect. So, look for Jim Kelly, Fred Hill, Bill Cronin, and Roger Gill to battle for the spot behind Pete. They were all reserves a year ago, and saw very limited duty. One of them figures to take the load off Pete if his past starts catching up with him.

Molden's arrival from the Rams will bolster offensive tackle where Bob Brown, Lane Howell, and Dave Graham are back. Behind them are rookies Ray Rissmiller from Georgia, and Jim Cross from Pomona.

Offensive guards are Ed Blaine, Jim Skaggs, and Lynn Hoyem but Kuharich has three promising rookies coming to wedge into the picture. They are Wilbur Hodge of South Carolina, Keith Roundy of Eastern Washington, and Bruce Van Dyke of Missouri.

Jim Ringo, with 14 years behind him, is the center; but just in case, there's Tulsa's John Osmond as an understudy. John is 64 and 255 pounds, and comes with great pass-blocking credentials.

The fellow everyone will be watching on the offensive platoon, however, is Hawkins. A native of Nutley, N. J., the Arizona State flash was hailed as the best college flanker in the nation in 1965. He's run the 100 in 9.8, and averaged 50 minutes a game as a 1965 two-way player, catching 34 passes for 504 yards and four touchdowns. Not only will he battle for a starting job, but Ben will also be used as a kick return specialist and cornerback in camp. This guy is going to fit in someplace.

Don Hultz and George Tarasovic, a 13-year man from Louisiana State, are back as defensive ends. Big George had some great moments in '65. He ran back a fumble 62 yards for a touchdown against Dallas, and picked off a pass against Pittsburgh for a 40-yard touchdown romp. But, George and Hultz are going to be battling



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at St. Louis
Sept. 18—Atlanta
Sept. 25—New York
Oct. 2—St. Louis
Oct. 9—at Dallas
Oct. 16—at Pittsburgh
Oct. 23—at New York
Oct. 30—Washington
Nov. 6—Dallas
Nov. 13—at Cleveland
Nov. 20—at San Francisco
Nov. 27—BYE
Dec. 4—Pittsburgh
Dec. 11—Cleveland
Dec. 18—at Washington

Brown, with ball, averaged 5.4 yards per carry and was third in NFL rushing with 861 yards.

Beisler and Pettigrew this year. Also in the picture is Jerry Mazzanti, a fellow who started five games two years ago before wrecking his knee. Jerry spent the next two years in the Army, and is back now to resume his career. Of the lot, Tarasovic looks like the best bet to start on one side of the front four with either Mazzanti, Beisler, or Pettigrew on the other.

Ed Khayat, Floyd Peters, and John Meyers offer experience at the tackles, but linebacker appears wide open. There, Kuharich has Brown from the Rams, plus Dave Lloyd, and Mike Morgan for experience. Strong candidates are Harold Wells, and Fred Whittingham, a pair of second year men, and rookies Dave Cahill from Arizona State, Arunas Vasys from Notre Dame, and All-American Dwight

Kelley from Ohio State. Kelley looks like the best prospect.

The defensive backs, like their offensive bretheren, have that "set" look. Claude Crabb, Irv Cross, Al Nelson, Jim Nettles, Nate Ramsay, and Little Joe Scarpatti, the boys who makes the big play, are going to take a lot of shoving to move out. This perimeter is generally overlooked by the experts. But, it shouldn't be. It was a stickout quartet, no matter its composition on a given day.

The Eagles expect to be stronger this year. They could be. They've got the punch, and they've tried to patch up their defensive weaknesses. Still, they seem a year away.

PROBABLE FINISH: 6

PITTSBURGH STEELERS



The Pittsburgh Steeler defensive unit played well despite an otherwise dismal year in '65.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

There weren't many strengths on the 1965 Eastern cellar dwellers whose 2-12 record was the worst in Steeler history. But there were some—the defensive unit, for example. Blessed with a stronger offensive counterpart, it would have been recognized far more than it has as one of the league's best.

Unfortunately, by being put under constant pressure by a sputtering attack, the figures it compiled are extremely misleading. For example, its passing yardage yield of 2703 was fourth best, surpassing such heralded defensive platoons as the Chicago Bears.

The front line had such stalwarts as John Baker and Ben McGee at the ends, Chuck Hinton and Ken Kortas at tackles, Rod Breedlove, Bob Schmitz, John Campbell and Myron Pottios (when healthy) at linebacker, and Willie Daniels, Jim Bradshaw Brady Keys and Marv Woodson in the secondary. They all had help from

the bench, too, and collectively formed a young, extremely aggressive unit.

Bradshaw was one of the better pass defenders with five interceptions. Jim ran them back 117 yards, his longest an 87-yarder for a touchdown. Another of his thefts also produced a touchdown. Reports are that Bill Austin, the new head coach, was extremely impressed with what he saw of the unit on films.

Though the offense has been given most of the blame for the troubles of '65, there were some bright spots. Flanker Gary Ballman, one of the fastest men in the NFL, caught 40 passes to lead the club while finishing just outside the top 20 (21st to be exact). His receptions rolled up 859 yards, and supported by stronger quarterbacking certainly would have totaled much higher.

Halfback Dick Hoak, small at 5-11 and 190-pounds, was another stickout. Working behind one of the poorest offensive lines in club history, Dick carried 131 times for 426 yards and a

respectable 3.2 average. Right behind him was fullback Mike Lind, pressed into service when the great John Henry Johnson was hurt. Lind carried 111 times for 375 yards and a 3.3 average.

But none of this was enough to overcome the overall weaknesses of the club.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Naturally, there were many soft spots. And the heart of the matter was the offensive unit. In the words of a club spokesman, "It was almost a three downs and punt organization." Not only did it fail to score enough points, it couldn't hold the ball long enough to give the defense time to rest. Eventually, the defense broke down.

Austin, after weeks of reviewing game films, places some of the offensive blame on the line. "It was too slow getting off the mark," he noted. "Sometimes, the ball was already in the quarterback's hands before the line made its initial charge. Such an error is enough to break down any offense."

The offense just wasn't there, anyway. Johnson, the veteran fullback who had two straight 1,000-yard plus seasons, was felled with a knee injury in the opening game and was lost for the year. Bill Nelson, the young quarterback, twisted a knee in an exhibition and was forced to play the full 14-game schedule on "a knee and a half."

Look at what these troubles produced: fewest points scored (202), fewest touchdown passes (10), fewest touchdowns (25), fewest first downs (194), 13th in rushing yardage (1378), 12th in passing yardage (2503), first in fumbles (42), and first in number of times the passer was tackled (62).

The club was also hurt by the unexpected resignation of Buddy Parker as head coach two weeks before the season started. Mike Nixon was promoted to the job, and he did his best on short notice. The surprise decision by Parker nearly resulted in chaos.

Remarkable, it is then, that the Steelers even managed to get through the season. The injuries that followed only helped make more horrible an already horrible situation.

1966 FORECAST

Things are going to be better, and not just because they can't get much



Brady Keys



Gary Ballman



John H. Johnson

		LEADING RUSHER								
		Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD				
Dick Hoak		131	426	52	3.2	6				
		LEADING PASSER								
		Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.	
Bill Nelson		270	121	44.8	1917	8	87	17	7.10	
		LEADING RECEIVER								
		No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD				
Gary Ballman		40	859	21.5	87	8				



The Pittsburgh Steeler ballclub bases a lot of its offensive hopes this year on first-rate pass receiver Gary Ballman, no. 85.

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—New York
Sept. 18—Detroit
Sept. 25—Washington
Oct. 2—at Washington
Oct. 8—at Cleveland
Oct. 16—Philadelphia
Oct. 23—BYE
Oct. 30—at Dallas
Nov. 6—Cleveland
Nov. 13—St. Louis
Nov. 20—Dallas
Nov. 27—at St. Louis
Dec. 4—at Philadelphia
Dec. 11—at New York
Dec. 18—at Atlanta

worse. Austin, the new boss, is one of a group of bright young coaches coming into the league with winning reputations.

Austin, a Californian who played at Oregon, achieved his greatest fame as a player on the offensive line of the New York Giants between 1953 and 1957. Those were the years of some great Giant teams. He bulwarked the offensive line under the direction of another future coaching great, Vince Lombardi.

After he left the Giants, Austin coached college ball for one year at Wichita, then rejoined Lombardi as an assistant at Green Bay for six seasons. Last year he worked with the Los Angeles Rams. In 26 years of football—high school, college, pro playing and coaching—he's only been associated with two losing seasons.

His philosophy—and one which will be unique to the generally carefree Steelers: "Football is a Spartan sport and should be approached in a Spartan way. Most teams in this league are near equal in personnel, so pride and attitude make the difference."

Infusing the Steelers with that kind of approach, plus some heavy overhauling of the offensive platoon, he considers his prime problems for 1966. The only change he's planning on defense is restoring Clendon Thomas to a safety.

Last year when the receiving corps

was riddled with injuries Thomas, an extremely versatile fellow, was shifted to offense where he played both tight and split end. But, as Austin said, Clendon "is a better safety and that's where he'll play."

Though Nelson was No. 15 among the league passers a year ago, Austin doesn't consider quarterback a weak position. Nelson, his knee problems corrected by surgery, figures to be a much improved operative. Behind him will be Tommy Wade, the former Texan, who worked in relief of Nelson quite often last year. In fact, Wade hit an even .500 with 33 completions in 66 tries.

A healthy Nelson throwing to the fleet Ballman, Roy Jefferson, and a highly touted rookie from South Carolina, J. R. Wilburn, should give the Steelers a much more potent aerial game. But to keep the defense honest against the receivers, some running strength is going to have to be found.

Hoak is back, and so is Clarence Peaks, whom the Steelers got from Philadelphia just before the '65 season started. Peaks, who had to shake off ailments of his own, was gradually worked into the lineup. He finished with 47 carries for 230 yards and a 4.8 average. He also ran back 20 kickoffs for 429 yards. Then, there's Lind and the questionable status of Johnson.

John Henry, already established as

one of the finest runners in NFL annals, is now 36. How much longer can he expect to hold up under the steady pounding a running-blocking fullback takes? Under the most optimistic circumstances, not much.

John Henry will probably stick around for another year, but meanwhile the club plans to find strong running help elsewhere—either from a fine group of youngsters coming out of the college ranks, or in the trading marts.

If the Steelers can locate some runners, look for Lind to be shifted to tight end, a spot that is still open. Lind is one of the best receivers and blockers on the club but has never played tight end in the pros. He may get the call this year off his 25 receptions (236 yards) of a year ago.

Austin, surveying the situation late last winter, said, "This is a big challenge. There is an awful lot of work to be done."

That's putting it mildly. Still, the nucleus for a respectable club is there. It'll be up to Austin and his new "get tough" regime to see how respectable it can become. It shouldn't be a tail-ender this time, either. The expansion Atlanta Falcons have been assigned to the Eastern Conference. Their presence ought to be a morale booster for the Steelers, anyway.

PROBABLE FINISH: 7

ATLANTA FALCONS



Atlanta, the NFL's first Dixie ballclub, will play seven home games in its new stadium.

HOW IT WAS DONE

The clubowners, drawing on their experiences stocking the last two expansion teams which entered the league, arranged a considerably more liberal plan for the new Atlanta Falcons.

At the NFL's annual winter meeting in Palm Beach each club first submitted a list of eleven players each. Atlanta then made one selection from each of the lists which were returned back to their clubs. The clubs then exempted two additional players, and resubmitted the lists. Atlanta then made two picks from each, or, a total of three from each of the 14 clubs for a total of 42.

Prior to the special stocking, the Falcons signed an additional 19 veterans as free agents, hiking their roster to 61. At about the same time they participated in the regular college draft, were granted extra choices, and came out of it with 32 rookies signed. The total number of players who'll report to camp in July is, therefore, 93.

As an extra concession, the Falcons will be allowed to carry 46 players the first two weeks of the season, and 42 the rest of the way, or, two over the

regular limit. If there's safety in numbers, the Falcons will be well protected.

WHERE THEY'LL PLAY

The Falcons, Dixie's first NFL representative, will be part of the Eastern Conference, but will play a swing schedule in their maiden season. By that it's meant they'll play each league member once. Next year when a 16th team is added, they'll revert to a standardized conference schedule.

Their seven home opponents this year are Los Angeles, Dallas, San Francisco, Cleveland, Baltimore, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. Their road opponents: Philadelphia, Detroit, Washington, Green Bay (at Milwaukee), New York, Chicago and Minnesota.

THE HEAD COACH

He's Norb Hecker, another in a growing list of Vince Lombardi proteges. Hecker worked under Vince at Green Bay for seven years. He helped to develop all-pro defensive backs Herb Adderley, Willie Wood, and Jesse Whitenton.

In 1950 Hecker was a Little All-America offensive end at Baldwin-Wallace College of Berea, O. He signed and played with the Los Angeles Rams

as a defensive back for three years, starting in 1951. He played in the Canadian Football League in 1954, and then returned to the NFL from 1955 through 1957 as a Washington Redskin.

He began his coaching career in 1958 with Hamilton of the CFL. In 1959 he joined Lombardi's first staff at Green Bay.

About his new job with a brand new team, the 38-year-old Hecker said, "My outlook on this first year is that we have no place to go but up. Since we'll have one of the largest groups ever to go to a pro camp, I won't have a clear idea of what we're capable of until we get around to making roster cuts."

Hecker admitted that the Falcons placed the emphasis on defense in making their special stocking and college draft picks.

"Although offense won't be neglected by any means, my conviction is that in the NFL you have to stop somebody and gain possession before you can even think about scoring," he said.

OUTSTANDING PERSONNEL

The Falcons came up with a pair of terrific pro prospects in the college draft. They signed linebacker Tommy Nobis from Texas (he got a whopping bonus for his signature) and safety Nick Rassas from Notre Dame. Nobis, the No. 1 draft choice, made every major All-America team and Rassas led the country in punt returns.

Also chosen were quarterback Randy Johnson of Texas A & I, Steve Sloan of Alabama who quarterbacked the Crimson Tide to their national championship, flanker Charlie Casey of Florida, and halfback Bill Wolski of Notre Dame.

The offense has a good nucleus ready with Dennis Claridge, a surprise selection off the Green Bay lists, as the No. 1 quarterback. Claridge, a former Nebraska All-America, played behind Bart Starr and Zeke Bratkowski at Green Bay for three years, which means he played very little. But he was considered Starr's successor. No wonder Hecker, who helped coach him at Green Bay, was surprised to see him available, and no wonder he snapped up Dennis quickly.

Other excellent choices in the special stocking plan, fellows who either were former regulars or understudies to great players, include fullback Ernie

Charles Sieminski



Tommy Nobis



Nick Rassas



Bill Martin





Perry Lee Dunn



Alex Hawkins



Norb Hecker

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—Los Angeles	Oct. 30—Cleveland
Sept. 18—at Philadelphia	Nov. 6—BYE
Sept. 25—at Detroit	No. 13—Baltimore
Oct. 2—Dallas	Nov. 20—at New York
Oct. 9—at Washington	Nov. 27—at Chicago
Oct. 6—San Francisco	Dec. 4—at Minnesota
Oct. 23—Green Bay (Milwaukee)	Dec. 11—St. Louis
	Dec. 18—Pittsburgh

Wheelwright of New York, tight end Billy Martin of Chicago, defensive backs Larry Benz and Bobby Franklin of Cleveland, end-flanker Alex Hawkins of Baltimore, end-kicker Bob Jencks of Washington, halfback Danny Lewis of Washington, flanker Red Mack of Pittsburgh, linebacker Marion Rushing of St. Louis and defensive back Carl Silvestri of the same club.

"It should be noted," Hecker pointed out, "that several of these veterans were just a step away from first-team jobs."

For example, Wheelwright played behind the great young New York rookie, Tucker Frederickson. Hawkins was the backup man for Raymond Berry and Jimmy Orr at Baltimore. Martin understudied Mike Ditka of the Bears.

"Perhaps the potential in these fellows has never been fully tapped," Hecker added.

Perhaps.

1966 FORECAST

Hecker described the situation he faces perfectly when he said, "Our building process will take time."

The maiden season won't be time enough for the Falcons, who'll be a smashing financial success anyway. At last count more than 45,000 season tickets had already been sold!

Nevertheless, the newcomers should not be pushovers. Sticking mainly with

the known pro players, the interior offensive line has six candidates who have been first-string players in the NFL. These are centers Bob Whitlow and Frank Marchlewski, tackle Errol Linden, and guards Dan Grimm, Ed Cook and Dale Memelaar.

At the end are a pair of veterans in Martin and Jencks, plus Taz Anderson, a former St. Louis regular signed as a free agent. A leading rookie is Phil Sheridan from Notre Dame. Other fine receivers are Hawkins, Neal Petties, Mack, and Dale Messer plus rookies Casey and Tommy Tolleson of Alabama.

Claridge tops the quarterbacks backed by Johnson and Sloan. They're all young and short on experience, including the bench-rusty Claridge.

Wheelwright, a New York regular in '64, and Lewis, Washington's No. 1 ballcarrier last year, head the running backs. The Wheel was slowed by an ankle injury in '65 and lost his job to Frederickson. Behind these two are Junior Coffey, a reserve at Green Bay, Rudy Johnson of San Francisco, and Perry Lee Dunn of Dallas. Wolski is the top rookie.

There's not much experienced depth in the defensive line where Maury Youmans of Dallas and Sam Williams of Detroit will probably man the ends. Guy Reese is at tackle.

Nobis is the top rookie among the

linebackers, but to win a regular spot he'll have to battle tough veterans Bill Jobko from Minnesota, Max Messner of the Steelers, Ralph Heck of the Eagles and Rushing.

In the secondary, four of the seven veterans played regularly at one time or another. Benz and Franklin for Cleveland, Lee Calland for Minnesota and Jerry Richardson for Los Angeles. Others like Silvestri, Bob Sherman and Ron Smith are still very young and have a chance to develop.

No one can deny that the NFL gave the Falcons as liberal a stocking plan as possible, or that the club's selections were prudently made. But modern pro football teams survive on instinctive cohesion, and this is difficult to achieve in even three years.

Dallas, which tied New York for second in the East last year, has never had a winning record since entering the NFL in 1960. Its first year it won none, lost eleven and tied one. Last year's 7-7 mark was its best.

Minnesota, which entered in 1961, won three of 14 starts its maiden season, and it wasn't until 1964 that the Vikings went over .500 with an 8-5 record. Last year it was 7-7.

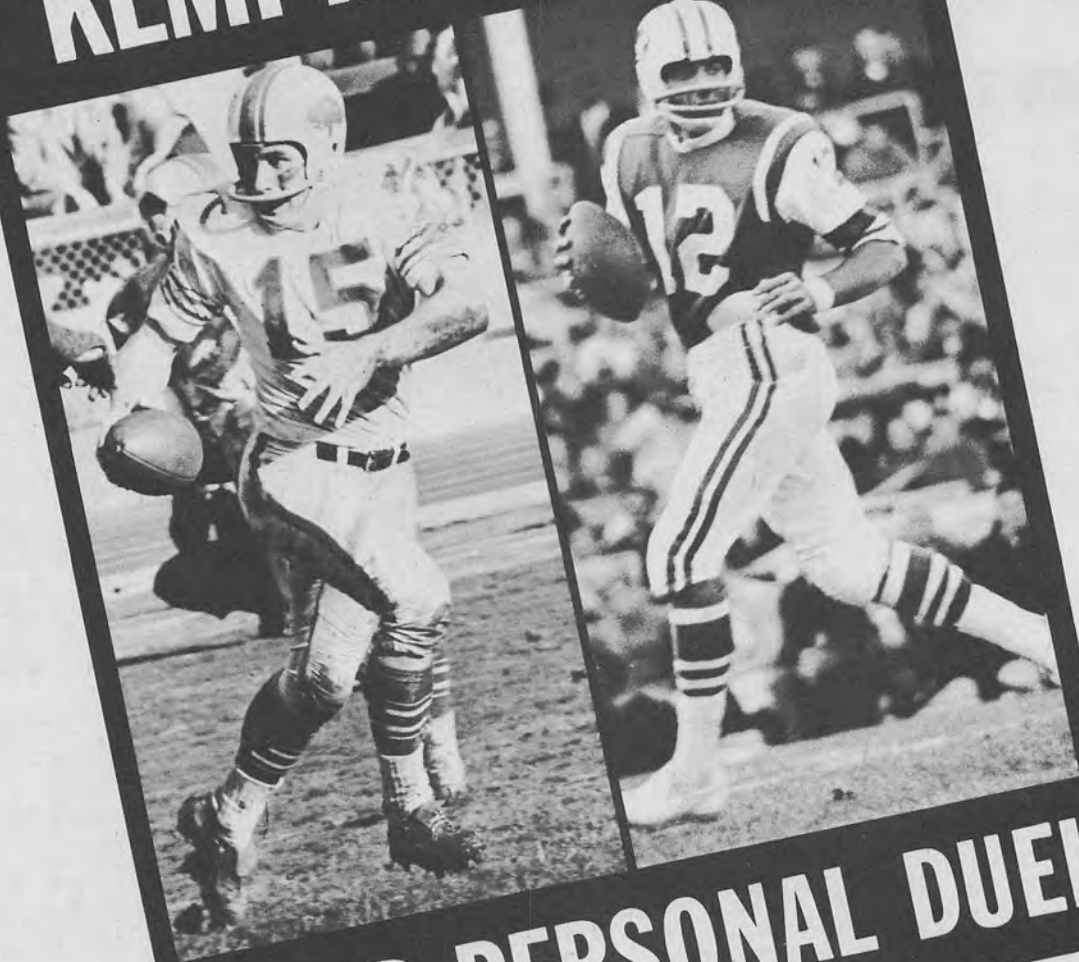
So, while Falcon hopes are high, they unfortunately don't figure to finish very high for the next few years.

PROBABLE FINISH: 8

The Buffalo and New York quarterbacks are as different as winter and summer, yet both fire up their teams with remarkable success. They'll battle in '66

to prove who's the AFL's top quarterback and the winner of that contest could well win his team the league title. Here's an inside look at the two contestants.

KEMP ... NAMATH



THEIR PERSONAL DUEL

By Larry Felser

There's a choice, not an echo, in the American Football League's Eastern Division this season.

The East is host to the league's championship final this December and, since the name of the game is quarterback, it is logical to expect the site will be either War Memorial Stadium in Buffalo or Shea Stadium in New York.

What it narrows down to is a season-long duel between Jack Kemp of the Buffalo Bills and Joe Namath of the New York Jets.

In one corner is a failure-cursed veteran, freshly arrived

after a bumpy trip up from the ranks. That's Kemp.

In the other corner, silver spoon dangling from his mouth, is Namath, the Alabama Wunderkind.

Rejected by seven other football teams and gnawed by self doubt for eight pro years, Kemp finally established himself in Buffalo's last two championship seasons.

Kemp threw a meager 10 touchdown passes to his injury-decimated receiving corps in 1965, but his gritty, shrewd leadership and clutch throwing won him the AFL's most valuable player award in both the Associated Press and

(continued on page 80)



(Photo By Jack Barry)



EIGHT DAYS TO DAYLIGHT

Last year the Western Division of the NFL had one of its most exciting finishes on record. Here, Jerry Izenberg, one of America's top sportswriters, captures the mood, tension, drama and color of the longest week in Green Bay's history.

The Longest Day

GREEN BAY—It began at 10:30 in the lobby of the Northland Hotel where Tom Matte was signing autographs.

"How do you feel?" somebody asked. Even in Green Bay, Wisc., on a Sunday morning this comes fairly close to establishing a new indoor armory record for non sequiturs except for the fact that Matte's assignment was not unlike asking an agent to book the Royal Egyptian Ballet into the Tel Aviv Palace.

"Well," Matte said, "it's all out there on the carpet today."

This is not exactly Mark Anthony's address to the Romans but it was fairly accurate as far as it went. What

Tom Matte did not say was that it was going to lay there all through the frost-bitten afternoon and well into the Great Northern Night because nobody—but nobody—wanted to pick it up.

The Green Bay Packers won the chattel mortgage on the Western half of Pete Rozelle's world yesterday by outlasting Baltimore in the last of the ice cold marathon dances. All it took was five quarters of a four-quarter football game, a second-string quarterback, Paul Hornung's knee, chest and wrist and half of Bart Starr. Pound for pound, it was a delightful ball game.

The Colts had qualified for this thing as winner of the Willie Sutton All-American Chutzpah Award. Chutzpah is an Old World expression which loosely translated means a guy has just shot his mother and father and thrown himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan. In a game which has been favorably compared to basketball with goal posts, the Baltimores were about to play for a title without a quarterback.

They were not about to play a football game. They were about to stage the great mail train robbery. As figures in this age of the non hero, they almost got away with it.

The afternoon began with a kilted drum and bugle corps, a marching band in mackinaws and 16 peachcakes in gold

(Photo By Vernon Biever)



sweaters, brief white skirts and ice blue legs. Then somebody opened the ice box door and out came the Colts and Packers. You couldn't find anybody in the joint who wanted to lay the price that Baltimore was not going to be imbedded in this dairy belt tundra long after the spring thaw.

So the Green Bay Packers came up to the scrimmage line for the first play with their green jerseys and their great wide muscles and Bart Starr, who is the jolly green giants' quarterback, dropped back to throw.

He hit Bill Anderson with a forward pass and Lenny Lyles, a Baltimore defender, hit Bill Anderson with at least 40 concealed weapons. The mess was awful.

Anderson dropped the ball. Don Shinnick, a linebacker, picked it up and dropped the Packers seven points back. Bart Starr cut over in pursuit and the Colts dropped Starr. Starr dropped half his ribs in the corner of the end zone and when they picked him up he walked with all the purposeful direction of a Jolly Green Pretzel. It looked like high noon at the lost-and-found department in Gimbel's.

And who says you need 11 offensive starters to play this game? Seven points to the good, Baltimore's three-week tribute to the non-offense neared its zenith. Lou Michaels, the kicker, got them three more points. The Colts played savage defensive football and at halftime, Vince Lombardi's ears looked like matching sauna baths.

Naturally, the Packers came back. They did it the hard way. Zeke Bratkowski, a second-string quarterback, played, perhaps, his finest game. Paul Hornung, the Golden Boy, ran well, caught well and finally left the field in little golden sections.

But inch by inch, they pulled even. They did it mainly because it was apparent to everyone in this frosty igloo that Baltimore couldn't score another touchdown. Blessed with a goal to shoot for, the Packers finally drew all even with 1:58 left on Don Chandler's first field goal.

After that, things moved routinely. Several delightful fist fights broke out. The Packers got the ball back, fumbled it and nobody seemed quite sure where it was last seen. The Colts and their coach, Don Shula, swarmed onto the field for an explanation. Several of the Baltimores wanted to search for it inside an official's tummy but were restrained. In the interim, the game ended.

And so it came down to a fifth quarter and Peter Rozelle, the NFL's commander in the field, mindful that the rival AFL was about to go on the air with its own tiptoe telecast, turned to a man and said: "I can hear Sonny Werblin screaming now."

At the finish, after all the muscle and all the brawn, all the huffing and all the puffing, it came down to bald-headed Don Chandler, standing out there with the weight of Green Bay, Wisc., the players' share of the title money and Vince Lombardi's hot breath upon his shoulders.

Chandler kicked the hell out of the ball and got the field goal. And here came the Eskimos in fur parkas and stocking caps, and some of them even tried to lift Vince Lombardi on their shoulders.

Such levity can be excused. He is not expected to try to walk across the Fox River until this afternoon.

The Winners

GREEN BAY—The coach had given them the day off but long before noon they had begun to limp painfully into the buff stone building where the trainer lived. Slowly, on swollen feet, with knees ballooned to the circumference of under-sized volley balls, the winners came to count the cost.

They live in a world of controlled violence; a world of tape and whirlpool baths and sponge rubber padding but yesterday, the Green Bay Packers, undisputed champions of Peter Rozelle's Western Division, were Saturday night in the Albert Einstein Medical Center emergency ward. A man half a continent removed from Baltimore had to wonder what the losers must have looked like.

Bart Starr has the sore back and Ron Kostelnik has the bad foot and Boyd Dowler and Paul Hornung hurt in

so many places it is impossible to pick out a focal point. On Sunday they are going to have to try it one more time against Jim Brown. It is not going to get any easier.

Upstairs, in a walnut-paneled office with wall-to-wall carpeting, Vincent Lombardi leaned back behind an enormous desk and ran down the casualty list. It has been said of Vincent that when you join his club, you do not play... you enlist.

Yesterday, he made it clear that even the cooks and bakers are going to have to carry their rifles this Sunday. "Starr," he said, "well, the X-rays are negative but the back is sore and we can't possibly know about him until maybe Thursday. The others," he casually added, "will play."

As he spoke, he fingered a long, silvertipped letter opener. "Kostelnik's foot has been hurting all season. It didn't get any worse yesterday. Dowler has two bad shoulders and an ankle but he's been playing that way all year. He will play on Sunday. Hornung will be all right."

And then he ran down the schedule for the rest of the week and a tourist, noting that Vincent had also furloughed the troops for Tuesday, wondered why all this idleness.

"Well, it's mental, you know," the coach said. "After all they played that fifth quarter. I don't mean the physical contact hurt them. I simply feel it took a little out of them emotionally. Physically, I believe it is impossible to overwork a strong, young, healthy athlete."

As he spoke, workmen outside in the arctic sunshine were checking the protective coating of marsh grass which covers the playing surface at Curly Lambeau Field. The Packers are going to be out there on Wednesday and again on Thursday and they are going to work like hell because this is the way Vincent Lombardi coaches and the results appear to be self-evident.

The Green Bays are sore and chewed up, which is what happens to you when you spend five quarters in a meat-grinder but from a purist's standpoint—and around Green Bay they will tell you that Vincent leads this league in purity—Sunday was a game calculated to excite even the Marquis de Sade.

I have never seen hitting like that," the coach said, his eyes sparkling with pure delight. "It was a much truer test of football than, say, a 35-30 ball game."

It was also a rather true test of Vincent Lombardi and yesterday he admitted that for one of the few instants in his amazing coaching career, he could not make up his mind.

"When it's sudden death," he explained, "you have to play for the field goal. That's why you take the ball. Two first downs and you get first crack at it."

So here was Green Bay, driving through the gloom of the frozen tundra toward the Baltimore goal. With second and 10 on the Baltimore 25, Elijah Pitts, replacing the wounded Hornung, clawed forward for four yards, putting the ball squarely in front of the posts.

"I called for the field-goal unit," Vincent said.

"How do you do that?" a tourist wondered.

"Well, you jump up and then you cup your hands and you scream 'field goal'."

"Oh."

Seven Packers shed their capes and moved towards the field. And then Vincent thought, "What the hell, maybe we can get closer... maybe... please, please don't fumble it," and he called the seven back and Jimmy Taylor went for four more but missed the first down and Don Chandler came into win the game."

"What if he makes the first down?" a guy wondered.

"Well, I just don't know. I mean I wouldn't wait much longer in any event. My God, supposing Taylor had fumbled. I would have chased myself out of the park."

"You would have had a lot of help," a guy suggested.

Vincent laughed. You can do that when you win.

The Middleman

GREEN BAY—Once, nearly a decade ago, he had come rumbling downfield under a kickoff at Columbus, Ohio,

(continued on page 44)

CHICAGO BEARS



Rookie-of-the-Year Gale Sayers led defenders on a merry chase as he scored 22 touchdowns.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Almost any place you looked last season, there were strong points about the Bears. And this year the strong points will be stronger while the weak spots—few and far between—will be weaker but easily solved.

Strong Point No. 1 is the offensive backfield, carried last year by Gale Sayers, the phenomenal rookie who broke into the NFL with the fury of Atilla the Hun and the dramatic impact of an ICBM send-off.

He scored 22 touchdowns to lead the league and set a record. He was second in rushing to Jimmy Brown, with 867 yards in 166 carries. He caught 29 passes for 507 more yards. He did everything a veteran can do plus some things they haven't thought about. Add Ronny Bull, Jon Arnett, Andy Livingston and mellowing Joe Marconi and the least of the Bears' problems is running the ball.

But there is an equally potent machine back there named Rudy Buckich, the quarterback, who showed Billy

Wade the bench and wound up first among all league quarterbacks in the statistics considered important.

His ends—Johnny Morris, Mike Ditka and Dick Gordon—rival any three in the league. He gets fine protection from a very strong line, made up of Bob Wetoska and Herman Lee, tackles; Mike Rabold and Jim Cadile, guards; and Mike Pyle, center.

Defense is good to excellent with Atkins' possible loss the only drawback. Otherwise, the backfield is fleet and smart, the linebacking figures to hold up well and the charge-line is massive and mobile.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The 1965 Chicago Bears had very few weaknesses. The 1966 Bears, to make a point, may have even less. It seems to be that kind of season coming up for George Halas.

The biggest problem at the moment is Doug Atkins, who, 6-8 and 255 pounds, is perhaps the biggest problem in the NFL. Doug, a perennial

All-Pro defensive end, took Halas' harsh treatment of assistant coach George Allen to heart and said he was no longer interested in playing for the Bears now that his defensive coach is gone (to take the head coaching job in Los Angeles). He objected to Halas' court scene and now feels he objects to George in general.

Such a loss could put a serious dent in the Bears' hopes for what seems otherwise to be an unblemished shot at the title.

Linebacking is another area that bodes possible weakness. In the middle is last year's angry rookie, Dick Butkus, who, were it not for the presence of halfback Gale Sayers, might have been NFL Rookie of the Year.

But he is flanked by aging Joe Fortunato and Larry Morris, both of whom may find it difficult to duplicate last year's efforts over a 14-game schedule. The retirement of the master, Bill George, will have an effect behind the scenes, for it was he who aided in the building of the Butkus monster.

Otherwise, there were no serious weaknesses last season, and if the Bears solve their "problems" before post time, there may be none to speak of this season as well, except for the inevitable one of encroaching years and their mark on the proven veterans.

1966 FORECAST

Chicago's situation is especially challenging because the Bears are in the ultra-tough Western Division. If the Bears were an Eastern entry, there's little doubt that they would prevail. But there are too many good teams in the West, and Chicago, perhaps the best, will have to scramble furiously to come out on top.

The Bears are loaded on defense, iron-ribbed on the front and secure in the back. On offense, there is speed and muscle and experience and premium talent.

There are, however, possible problems, like the threatened retirement of Doug Atkins, the big defensive end. There is no adequate replacement for him. The other starting end is Dick Evey, good and young and brutal. But the subs are Bob Kilcullen and Ed O'Bradovich and both have failed to produce when given shots at the regular jobs.

Only three rookies show signs of promise—Dave Pivec of Notre Dame,



Mike Pyle



Dick Butkus



Johnny Morris

LEADING RUSHER	
	Att. Yds. Long Avg. TD
Gale Sayers	166 867 61 5.2 14
LEADING PASSER	
	Att. Comp. Pct. Yds. TD Long Int. Avg.
Rudy Bukich	312 176 56.4 2641 20 80 9 8.46
LEADING RECEIVER	
	No. Yds. Avg. Long TD
John Morris	53 846 16.0 80 4

Wayne Page of Clemson and Curtis Gentry of Maryland State.

The Bears on offense have Gale Sayers, and right there they have more than any other team. But there is also depth and talent in the backfield, a general at quarterback and seasoned ends who can block and catch.

Statistics are cold and leave no room for opinion, but one cannot record just how Rudy Bukich plays quarterback on paper.

He has that "old-time" gift for astute playcalling and for tough-minded leadership. Y. A. Tittle had it; Bobby Layne had it; Norm Van Brocklin had it. Bukich, too, has it, and figures to remain at least among the two or three top men at his position this season.

Johnny Morris, the diminutive flanker with the moves of a belly dancer, was eighth in pass receiving after leading the league the year before. He caught 53 for 846 yards, and was aided by Mike Ditka, the 240-pound tight end who stings linebackers numb and still had time to catch 36 for 454 yards. Second-year men Jim Jones and Dick Gordon can also run and block.

Defensively, the picture revolves

around Atkins. If he plays, he will team with Evey, Stan Jones, Earl Leggett and/or Johnny Johnson to wreak havoc on opposing offenses. The linebackers may need rejuvenation. Butkus is young, but Morris and Fortunato are nearing the end of the line. Mike Reilly and rookie Doug Buffone may supply some assistance.

Other '66 rookies, while not superstar-types like Sayers and Butkus in '65, can still help. They include defensive back Charley Brown, Syracuse; tackle Randy Jackson, Florida, and defensive tackle-end Frank McRae, Tennessee A&I.

Thus, the only real problem is the one that coaching, money and technical knowledge cannot stop—age and the loss of that one step.

Such a development may have a serious effect on Chicago's quest for a record ninth divisional championship (or co-record . . . Green Bay did it last year). The offensive and defensive backfields are set, and can fight off age with the able replacements in the roster. The offensive line has, too, enough manpower to overcome an injury or letdown. The receivers are among the best in the division and Bukich has, once and for all time,

proven himself a most capable quarterback.

But he is 34 years old and embarking on his 12th season. It has happened to younger men that one injury early in the year spells the end to the whole career. And with older men, it is a fear they must live with all season.

Morris, Fortunato, J. C. Caroline, Marconi, Jones and Lee are all feeling the aches and pains of the game now, and most certainly from last season, when Chicago lost its first three and then came roaring back to barely miss out at the finish. It takes a lot out of an aging body, that kind of pressure season, and it must at least be suspected that these graybeards may not be able to do it all over again if the going gets as rough as it is expected to be.

But Halas has a way—like Vinnie Lombardi—of getting so much out of a player that it surprises both of them. He will most likely make amends to Atkins, inject joy-juice into his other older hands and make another run at the title.

It is felt, this time, that George's run will be a successful one.

PROBABLE FINISH: 1

Chicago quarterback Rudy Bukich, no. 10, fired up the offense by completing 56.4% of his passes for 2541 yards and 20 touchdowns.



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at Detroit
Sept. 16—at Los Angeles
Sept. 25—BYE
Oct. 2—at Minnesota
Oct. 9—Baltimore
Oct. 16—Green Bay
Oct. 23—Los Angeles
Oct. 31—at St. Louis
Nov. 6—Detroit
Nov. 13—San Francisco
Nov. 20—at Green Bay
Nov. 27—Atlanta
Dec. 4—at Baltimore
Dec. 11—at San Francisco
Dec. 18—Minnesota

GREEN BAY PACKERS

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

In four of the last six years, Lombardi has won division championships. The other two years were second-place finishes. There have been three league titles in that time, like the 23-12 mudbath over Cleveland last January.

This year will vary little, but it will be a second-place team that winds up a tough season.

Green Bay has plenty of talent, but plenty of a wealth of competition, too, in the West.

Offense is strong at every position, though age could finally overtake key veterans. The running backs—Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung—are great ones, but no longer young. Flanker Boyd Dowler is one of the best. The line is generally solid, but will be missing Dan Grimm, a starting, 25-year-old guard, who was drafted by Atlanta.

Defense is rock-ribbed and nasty. Linebacking is set with Ray Nitschke in the middle and Lee Roy Caffey and Dave Robinson on the outside.

In the deep secondary, Willie Wood, Herb Adderley, Bob Jeter, Doug Hart and Tom Brown are fast and tough. They stopped the best receivers in the league, and did it regularly.

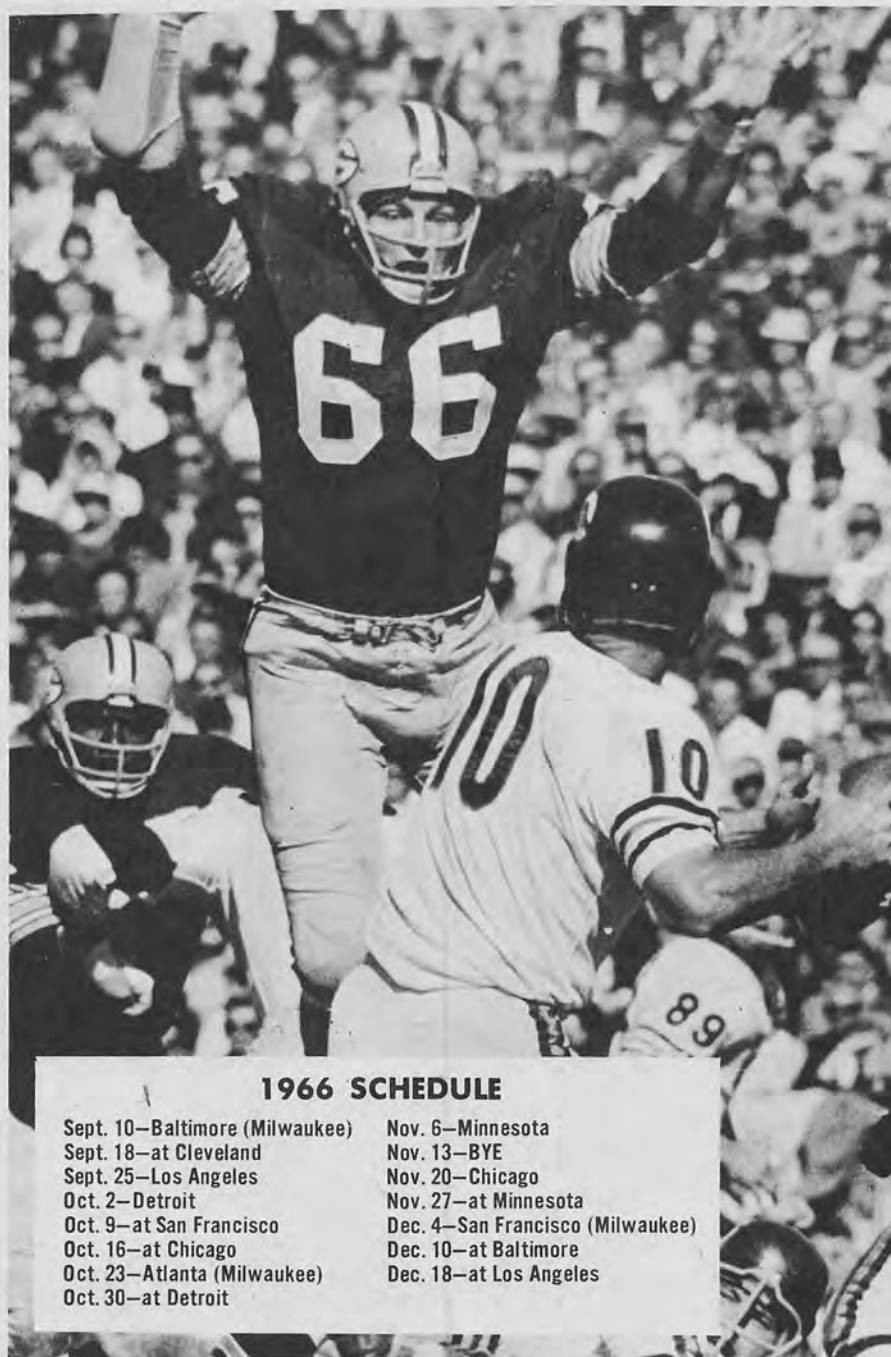
Up front on defense, ends Willie Davis and Lionel Aldridge are fine. Ron Kostelnik is a young, mean tackle, and Henry Jordan is an All-Pro despite advancing age.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

There was very little weakness in the Packer machine last year. There will be a little more now.

For instance, tight end. When Ron Kramer decided that he wanted to play elsewhere or not at all, he was sent to Detroit. "That hurt us," said coach Vinnie Lombardi, "badly." So Marv Fleming and Max McGee and Bob Long were tried at that spot, and they failed. Then Lombardi found help where he least expected it . . . from a cast-off named Bill Anderson, signed as a free agent after sitting out a year once he was released by Washington.

Anderson is 30 and was a great comfort to Lombardi last year. Unfortunately, he cannot be counted on to do it again.



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Baltimore (Milwaukee)	Nov. 6—Minnesota
Sept. 18—at Cleveland	Nov. 13—BYE
Sept. 25—Los Angeles	Nov. 20—Chicago
Oct. 2—Detroit	Nov. 27—at Minnesota
Oct. 9—at San Francisco	Dec. 4—San Francisco (Milwaukee)
Oct. 16—at Chicago	Dec. 10—at Baltimore
Oct. 23—Atlanta (Milwaukee)	Dec. 18—at Los Angeles
Oct. 30—at Detroit	

The hard charge of linebacker Ray Nitschke, no. 66, is key to Green Bay Packer defense.



Willie Davis



Paul Hornung



Bart Starr

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Jim Taylor	207	734	35	3.5	4

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Bart Starr	251	140	55.8	2055	16	77	9	8.19

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Boyd Dowler	44	610	13.9	47	4



Key play in Packer ball-control offense is to spring muscular fullback Jimmy Taylor, no. 31, with the guards running interference.

There is one weak spot. Tight end. Now take defensive tackle. Henry Jordan used to be the best. Now he's 32 and slipping slightly. Behind him are a pair of untried kids, Rich Marshall and rookie Sam Montgomery, who will be switched over from other positions.

There is another weak spot. Defensive tackle.

Now take the quarterbacks. Bart Starr, the regular, is 32. Zeke Bratkowski, the sub, is 34. Promising Atlanta in the draft. Starr had injury problems in '65 and should he get hurt again, and should Zeke have to carry on alone, Packer chances will suffer considerably.

There's the third weak spot. Age and vulnerability at quarterback.

1966 FORECAST

No team has a better collection of high-grade veterans or a better assemblage of blue-chip rookies, but the Packers seem to be a team of veterans one year too late and rookies a year too soon.

Green Bay will find out in a cruel hurry just how things will be this season. They open with Baltimore, and then come games with Cleveland, Los Angeles, Detroit, San Francisco and Chicago before a "breather" in Milwaukee against Atlanta (and how's that for a twist?) It is just not the right division to be in if the team is approaching that time when the vets start thinking about sore muscles and social security.

But the Lombardi toughness will keep them going when another coach might lose the grip. There is no one better at planned and scientific physical torture than Vinne at a summer camp. Half the players work at 200

per cent to spite him. The other half do it because they've been around Lombardi so long they don't know another way.

Rookies are plentiful and insure continued success. Backs like Jim Grabowski and Donny Anderson (a pair that cost \$750,000 to get) can't miss. Tackles Gale Gillingham and Fred Heron are topnotch maulers. End Tony Jeter (Bob's kid brother) belongs in that "certain star" category.

In addition, Vinnie signed four 1964 futures—besides Anderson. They are guard Roy Schmidt, tackles Mike Shinn and Jim Weatherwax and halfback Phil Vandersea. Green Bay futures have a habit of making it big and in a hurry.

But age is a concern. Forrest Gregg, starting guard, is 32 and in his 10th year. Jordan is 32 and also in his 10th year. Starr is 32, in season No. 11. Davis is 32 and playing his ninth season.

Hornung and Taylor are both 30 but have had a history of injuries and aches that would have benched lesser men. Constant pounding may have taken something out of them.

It has been said that Green Bay beat out Baltimore last year because Chicago thoughtfully tore up Colt quarterback Johnny Unitas' leg. But the Packers were strong—steel strong. They took the Colts three times, twice with Unitas. They stopped Cleveland's Jimmy Brown when that seemed impossible. They were solid offensively, denying on defense and powerful on the bench.

Starr was the offense's spearhead. When he's good, he's a mechanical genius, thorough and complete. He's not imaginative or brilliantly exciting, because Lombardi doesn't want him to be. But he hit on 140 of 251

passes for 2055 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Taylor ripped off 734 yards in 207 tries, fifth best in the NFL. Hornung added 299 in 89, playing only part of 12 games. But he was at his best in the pressure games.

Tommy Moore and Elijah Pitts, journeymen at best, filled in adequately during periods of hurt for the starters. Moore is gone now, traded to the Los Angeles Rams.

The offensive line will be Bob Skoronski and Gregg at tackles, Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston the guards and Ken Bowman the center. Allen Brown, a highly considered benchie, may fight for Grimm's void at guard. The line will average somewhere around 6-3 and somewhere around 235 pounds. That's strong.

Defensively, Green Bay can count on everything being fine except for that possible weakness at Jordan's spot. The backfield may be the best around.

Adderley didn't give up a touchdown pass all season until the championship game. Then Gary Collins caught one. Adderley had slipped on the mud-and-ice plaster that decorated the field.

There are enough reserves on the bench to fill in during emergencies.

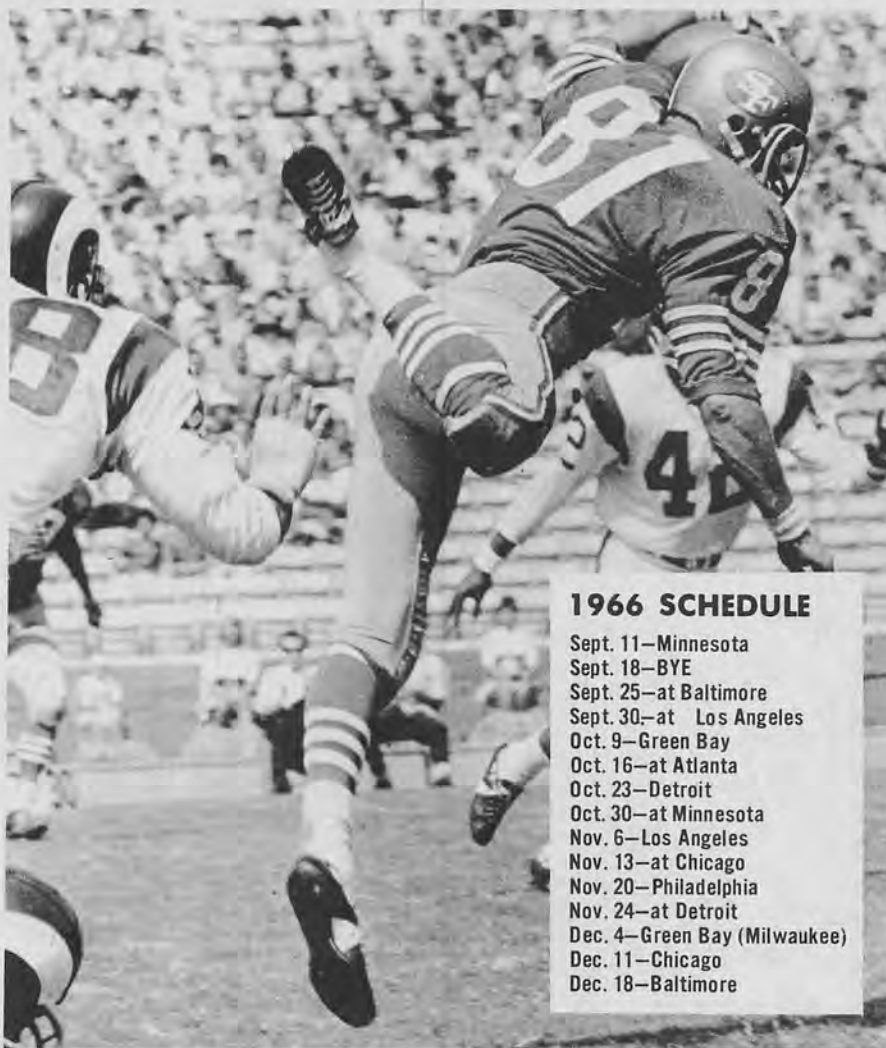
And there's always the pressure applied by Lombardi, a master at getting full performance from everybody. Put this together with the intangible called Pride, resulting from such a domination over such a period of time, and Green Bay will be very tough to beat. Chicago cannot afford a slip.

Lombardi always predicts bad seasons and expects good ones.

He will have a good one again, though not quite so good as '65.

PROBABLE FINISH: 2

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers



SF's young Dave Parks, no. 87, led the NFL in pass receiving last year with 80 catches.

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—Minnesota
 Sept. 18—BYE
 Sept. 25—at Baltimore
 Sept. 30—at Los Angeles
 Oct. 9—Green Bay
 Oct. 16—at Atlanta
 Oct. 23—Detroit
 Oct. 30—at Minnesota
 Nov. 6—Los Angeles
 Nov. 13—at Chicago
 Nov. 20—Philadelphia
 Nov. 24—at Detroit
 Dec. 4—Green Bay (Milwaukee)
 Dec. 11—Chicago
 Dec. 18—Baltimore

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Pass, pass, pass. If that fails, run, run, run. If that fails, forget it, because the defense will give something away anyway.

That, in essence, was the plan for the 1965 San Francisco 49ers. But when that offense was working, it was a thing of beauty. Quick as lightning, sudden as thunder, dazzling as mercury, it rolled up more points, more

passes, more touchdowns and more yardage than anyone, and it all revolved around a man they thought was through—quarterback John Brodie.

Tutored by former 49er Y. A. Tittle, he threw 391 times, was on target 242 times, collected 3112 yards and 30 touchdown passes and hit for 61.9 per cent of his attempts. He did have the best catcher in the business on the other end, however, in Dave Parks,

who caught 80 passes for 1344 yards and 12 touchdowns—all league-leading figures.

The backfield, led by Willard's 778 yards in 189 carries, was strong and quick. Gary Lewis, John David Crow and Dave Kopay will fight for the other running back spot.

The offensive line was good; it had to be for Brodie to get so much passing time in the pocket. It returns en masse, in the bodies of center Bruce Bosley, guards Howie Mudd, John Thomas and/or Jim Wilson and tackles Walt Rock and Len Rhode. Jim Norton and first draft pick Stan Hindman (Mississippi).

There is, therefore, very little to look for in the way of offensive improvement. More to the point is the fact that coach Jack Christiansen will be praying for things there to remain status quo.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The 49ers, who went from last to first in almost every offensive department in the NFL last year, had to have a pretty good reason for not winning the Western Division championship. They did. It was both painful and obvious: San Francisco had very little defense.

Offensively, the 49ers were world-beaters. They scored 421 points, more than any team. They had the league's top pass-catcher, Dave Parks. They had the third best overall quarterback, John Brodie, who led the league in total yards passing, touchdown passes, most completions, most attempts and best completion percentage.

The backfield was, at last, solid and productive, once rookie Ken Willard was set loose and told to destroy line-backers. He did, with the able assistance of old pro John David Crow, a St. Louis exchange for Abe Woodson.

But it was the defense that hurt. It gave up 402 points; the worst showing in the NFL was 403. There were 4640 yards gained against the unit, most in the league. The 49er defense gave up 3105 yards rushing, most in the league.

And to make matters bleaker, there has been no noticeable change in the defensive alignment. What little there has been will help just that much. The 49ers will be more balanced, if Brodie does it again, of course, but it still will be just a shell of what this of-



Ken Willard



John David Crow



Bernie Casey

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Ken Willard	189	778	32	4.1	5

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
John Brodie	391	242	61.9	3112	30	59	16	7.96

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
David Parks	80	1344	16.8	53	12



John David Crow advances ball in heavy traffic. He and fullback Willard give SF crunching ground attack and good pass blocking.

fense might do if it played with a real defense.

1966 FORECAST

At best, San Francisco can be said to field the type of team that could catch fire and burn its way to a flag. But it is not felt this is what will happen, not in the face of so many good teams in the Western Division fighting for the lead.

Closer to reality, perhaps, is the prediction that the 49er team will be a spoiler. It'll have an important influence on a race it probably cannot win itself.

Brodie, Parks, Willard and Crow make up as fine a backfield as the division has. Bernie Casey is more than capable as the flanker, and the offensive line, while not deep, is strong along the starting spots. The outlook, then, for this half of the team is fine.

But the defense has not been helped enough. At this printing neither the trade routes nor the waiver sheets have been tapped.

As it now stands, the charge-line will be last year's model. Clark Miller and Dan Colchico will be the ends

and Charlie Krueger and Roland Lakes the tackles. Linebackers are Matt Hazeltine (if he decides to play another one), Jack Chapple, Ed Beard, Mike Dowdle and Dave Wilcox.

The backfield? This is where all the trouble is. Right now, starters seem to be Kermit Alexander, George Donnelly, Elbert Kimbrough and Jerry Mertens. Wayne Swinford, a rookie last year, will fight for a spot with Jim Johnson, who was almost a regular.

San Francisco drafted—understandably—for defense, and turned up some blue-chip youngsters who must be considered a year away. Among them are back Dan Bland (Mississippi State), tackles Charley Johnson (Louisville), Dave Hetterma (New Mexico) and Dave McCormick (LSU).

It may be tough to crack the offensive unit, but there are a couple who must be rated a chance. Should Brodie find that his big year was 1965, little George Mira may be ready to take over at quarterback. Under Tittle, he learned to drop back rather than scramble, but he retained enough movement to make him hard to chart.

Monte Stickles is the right end, backed up by Bob Poole, but yearling Steve

Smith, a fifth-round pick from Michigan, could challenge seriously for the job.

Should the defense again prove lacking, there is little the Frisco fans can expect, except more fireworks.

Willard figures to get better. Should he blossom into the real slambang back he has the potential for, the 49ers may get so far ahead defense won't hurt them.

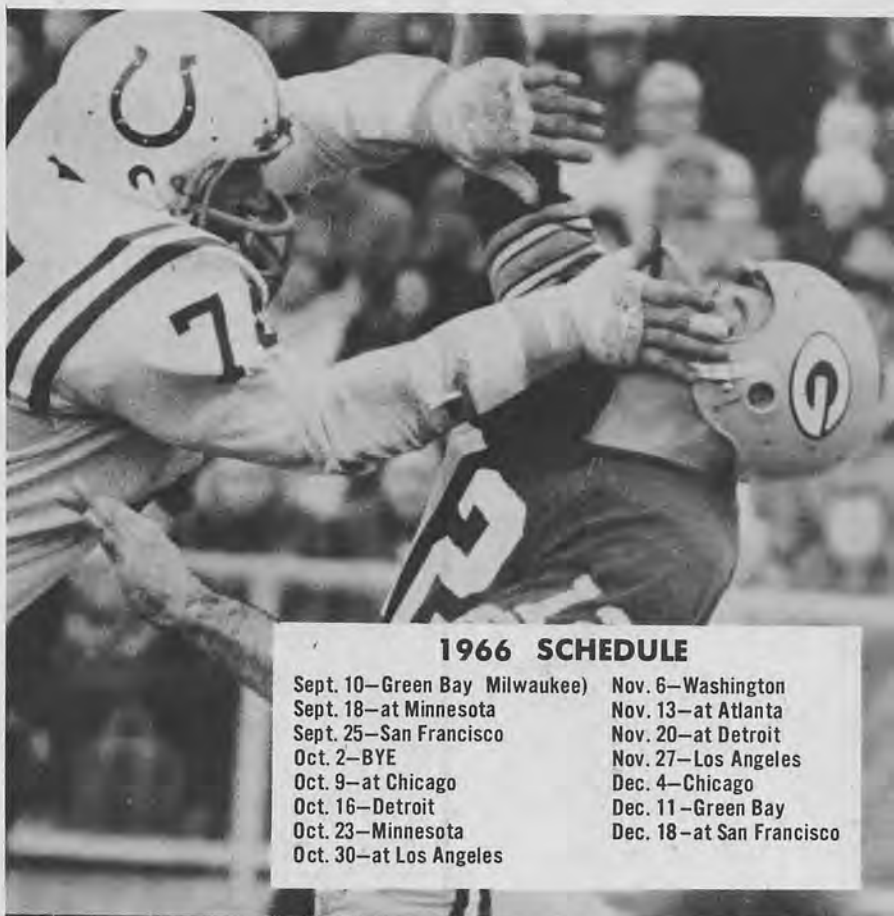
Willard is big enough (6-2, 230 pounds) to run over people, and possesses enough of the "good moves" to go around them. His learning quotient is high, and he caught on rapidly to the counsel of veteran Crow, who gave him tips on how best to carry out his running and blocking assignments.

Playing teams like Chicago, Green Bay, Baltimore and Los Angeles figures to give the offense plenty of work, but it is a test the unit should pass. However, playing against the offenses of those teams could prove traumatic to the S.F. defense.

So "erratic" is the word for the year. San Francisco should be better than average. Defense could make it more.

PROBABLE FINISH: 3

BALTIMORE COLTS



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10—Green Bay (Milwaukee)	Nov. 6—Washington
Sept. 18—at Minnesota	Nov. 13—at Atlanta
Sept. 25—San Francisco	Nov. 20—at Detroit
Oct. 2—BYE	Nov. 27—Los Angeles
Oct. 9—at Chicago	Dec. 4—Chicago
Oct. 16—Detroit	Dec. 11—Green Bay
Oct. 23—Minnesota	Dec. 18—at San Francisco
Oct. 30—at Los Angeles	

Baltimore's defense is sturdy because of seasoned pros like tackle Billy Ray Smith, 74.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Baltimore didn't win another flag because Unitas and Cuozzo didn't hang around long enough. And, to a lesser degree, the same thing can be said of Lorick, Moore, Raymond Barry, Jimmy Orr and Hill, who all at one time or another suffered from sprains, bruises and muscle pulls.

But when the Colts were whole they were very nearly unbeatable. An offensive line anchored by Parker and Preas did some excellent blocking. It gave Unitas time to pass, and Johnny's the best quarterback around at

picking apart a defense.

The Baltimore defense mixed the best parts of violence and stinginess to effectively pin down most offenses.

But then misfortune struck. Unitas was hurt, Green Bay kept winning and the Colts narrowly missed the title in a nip-and-tuck playoff game that went into overtime.

Retirements can raise havoc. Preas and Sandusky have apparently quit. Parker and linebacker Don Shinnick can suddenly start dreaming of a milder way of life. And if Unitas and/or Cuozzo are not healthy again, the Colts are in serious trouble.

But, if things heal and retirements

are forgotten, the Colts could be as strong as last year. There may be some normal problems on the lines and maybe with a back or two, but they can be overcome.

Scoring shouldn't be a Baltimore deficiency. Neither should stopping the other teams from scoring. But both areas may be just a shade below what they performed at last year. It could be enough to slip Baltimore down another notch.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Last year's main weak spot on the Colts was man-made—no quarterback stayed in one piece long enough to enable the Colts to repeat as division champs. But this year's weaknesses will be of a different nature, and may not heal as nicely as torn cartilages or shoulder separations.

Unitas and Cuozzo must prove they have no ill effects from last year's late-season injuries. Jim Parker, one of the best guards in the game, is 33 and in his 10th season. He's on the verge of getting tired. It began to show last year. Tackle George Preas, 33, and guard Alex Sandusky, 34, say they are retiring. There goes half a line.

The surprising loss of Alex Hawkins to Atlanta is Baltimore's self-inflicted wound. The end-halfback, 6-1 and 190, had been a valuable swing man.

But Baltimore has fewer problems on defense, which was superb last year, giving up only 284 points and only 4045 total yards. Yet age can creep in here, too.

Coach Shula went for help to New York and came away with tackle-end Andy Stynchula, an unhappy Giant. But he had to give up defensive back Wendell Harris, who will make New York happy.

In that backfield, Bob Boyd and Lenny Lyles remain as the only proven veterans. Jerry Logan and Jim Welch are ordinary, and the colorful Al Haymond hasn't played regularly.

Running will depend on Lenny Moore's 33 years. Lenny's explosive when right. Tony Lorick, Tom Matte and Jerry Hill are consistent and poised.

1966 FORECAST

After two seasons of near-complete success, a slight fall seems to be the



Ray Berry



John Unitas



Don Shinnick

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Jerry Hill	147	516	20	3.5	5

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
John Unitas	282	164	58.2	2530	23	61	12	8.97

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Raymond Berry	58	739	12.7	40	7



Baltimore veteran Lenny Moore, no. 24, has the speed and the moves to break away for long gains and break up close ballgames.

Colts' future. It will not be as resounding as, say, that of the New York Giants and Chicago Bears in 1964, nor does it look to be as total as perhaps Detroit's will be this time, but it will be a definite decline.

Much of this can be traced to advancing age and the questionable status of some of the old warriors. Men like Preas, Sandusky, Hawkins, Parker, Berry and even Unitas are either gone, in the process of going or too unpredictable to chart any longer.

Baltimore should have some trouble with its offensive line, yet there are such outstanding rookies as Sam Ball (first round, tackle), Butch Allison, (tackle), Rich Kestner (flanker) and Hoyle Granger (fullback) to provide the nucleus of another team.

There may even be trouble up front on defense, for there the Colts didn't get rich in the draft and what was there to start with may have lost a step or two.

The big question, however, will be Unitas. After that run-in with Chicago—and he was still limping badly four weeks later—he must be considered shaky. A knee injury can ruin a man's career and the Colts without Unitas are in boiling oil without a ladder.

Obviously, there is nothing better than a Unitas-to-Berry pass play; unless it is a Unitas-to-Orr bomb. There will be no competition at tight

end, unless it is John Mackey competing with Chicago's Mike Ditka for the All-Star berth.

Theoretically, there is no better quarterback than Unitas, but the jury must hold decision until the season starts. Ed Brown and George Haffner were the third and fourth quarterbacks; Haffner a taxi member and Brown a pickup from Pittsburgh. Brown doesn't figure to stay long if Unitas and Cuozzo are okay.

There must, in addition, be an end to the Saga of Ray Berry. It might not come about all at once, but this season could be its beginning.

Defense, long a Baltimore asset, will need bolstering. But whether it will come from front-line subs Roy Hilton or Claude Brownlee, a rookie, is not certain. Linebacking, if Shinnick stays young, will be satisfactory. Danny Gaubatz and Steve Stonebreaker on the flanks are young and tough. Rookies Stas Maliszewski, Barry Brown and Dave Ellis and subs Mike Strofolini, Jackie Burkett, Ted Davis and Mike Curtis are all potent.

The bench will be put to the test this summer. If it cannot measure up to the quality that has become expected of Baltimore benches in the past, the Colts are in trouble.

Statistically, the Colts showed why they were so tough. Unitas hit 164 of 282 passes for 2530 yards and 23

touchdowns. Hill was the leading rusher with 516 yards in 147 carries, followed by Moore (464 on 133).

Berry caught 58 passes for 739 yards, placing him seventh in league standings. Orr chipped in with 847 yards on 45 catches. Berry (seven) and Orr (10) combined for 17 of the Colts' 31 aerial touchdowns, or better than 50 percent.

So the pivotal questions around which Baltimore's season will revolve are:

Can Unitas do it again?

Will Cuozzo be able to do it if Unitas cannot?

Will Parker maintain his excellence?

Will Preas and Sandusky be talked out of retiring?

Will the defensive backfield withstand the loss of Harris?

Will the charge-line fight off the age?

Will Shinnick play another top-quality season?

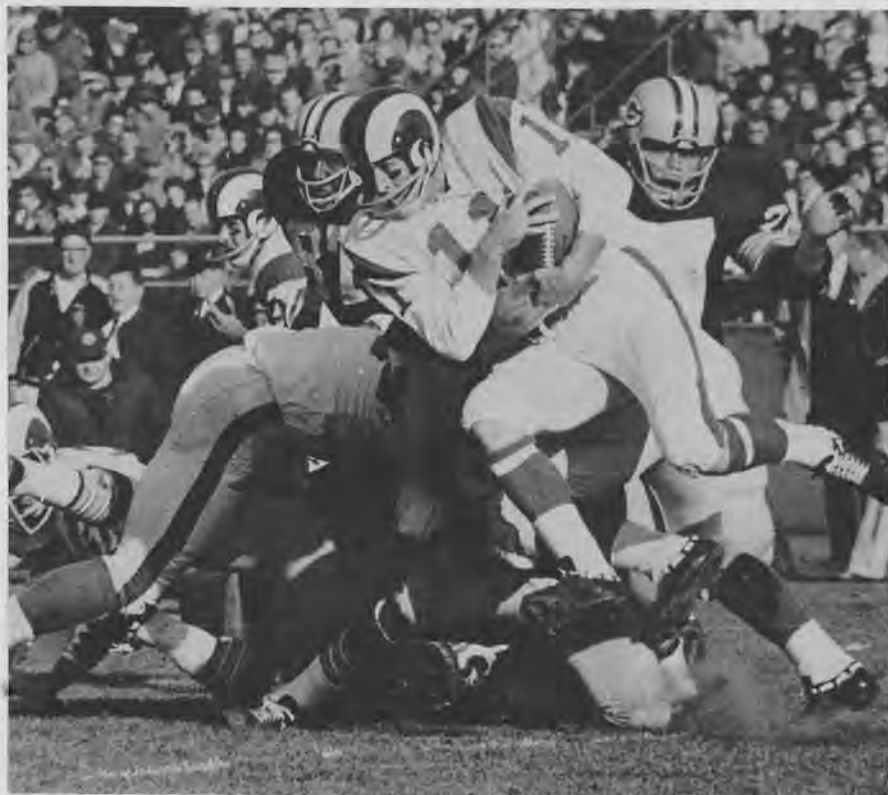
Will Berry begin to slide?

All the right answers must be needed to make the Colts a true contender again. If just some of them are answered to the satisfaction of Shula, the descent shouldn't be too great or too demoralizing.

But if the answers come up all wrong, it could be a very long season indeed in Memorial Stadium.

PROBABLE FINISH: 4

LOS ANGELES RAMS



Los Angeles back Terry Baker, no. 11, drives for gain against Green Bay Packer defense.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Most of the strong points sat on the Los Angeles bench last year; some through injury, some through falling into disfavor with coach Svare (who ultimately fell into disfavor with owner Dan Reeves).

Gabriel, a 6-3, 225-pound quarterback, may finally reach the stardom predicted for him after his All-America career at North Carolina State. He played only seven games in 1965, yet managed to hit on 83 of 173 attempts for 1321 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Bucky Pope, everybody's All-Pro end as a rookie in 1964, was hurt in the summer and never played a game. As a rookie, he had 25 catches for 786 yards (a per-catch average of 31.4) and 10 touchdowns.

The defense last year was a strong point up front. A foursome of Rosey

Grier and Merlin Olsen at tackles and Lamar Lundy and Dave Jones at ends strikes fear into any team's offense. It is a group that averages 6-5 and 265 pounds.

Linebacking was weak, but rookie Tony Guillory was a solid starter and Doug Woodlief and Mack Byrd, also rookies, showed great promise. Baughan should help, and so should old pros Dan Currie and Cliff Livingston.

The Rams are a coming ballclub. They could escape the cellar. New coach Allen and new aide Bill George could light a fire under the Rams.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Last season the Rams were weak in many areas, but it became partly evident that this situation was not so much from weakness as from inexperience.

There were many "almost-there's" on the squad. They should get there this year, and may jump Los Angeles a notch or two in the standings.

The offensive backfield was weak because Harland Svare, deposed coach, had not yet determined a starting quarterback. But with Roman Gabriel No. 1 and Bill Munson at back-up, the Rams should now have stability and depth there.

The receiving was hurt considerably when Bucky Pope was lost in a pre-season game for the entire campaign. But Tommy McDonald finished second in NFL receiving and Marlin McKeever also made a fine showing.

Rushing was weak also because of injuries to some and sub-par years by others. This must improve.

The offensive line wasn't the worst and the defense as a whole was young and green in some spots, aging and hurt in others. This, too, should improve, especially since new head coach George Allen was a defensive genius with Chicago and brought along enough new ideas to write another book.

Linebacking was spotty; it should be better with Max Baughan, acquired from Philadelphia. The defensive backfield was erratic; it should be better with experience.

Weakness for lack of talent is one thing, but weakness through inexperience is much easier to correct. In fact, it could lead to strength . . . for a long while.

1966 FORECAST

The last three spots in the Western Division, as the first four, are up for grabs. All the teams have improved to one degree or another, and all are uniformly strong and potential winners.

So the Rams, last in 1965, are picked as the team to show the greatest development and climb to fifth. LA could move even higher, but its reliance on youth cost the club a game or so with silly mistakes. Fifth is just about right.

The Rams must worry about the health of a few players, too. Pope must come back. Fullback Dick Bass, who once rushed 1000 yards in a season, was slowed by muscle pulls. Much of the running was done by Les Josephson, a soph, and Big Ben Wilson, a



Merlin Olsen



Marlin McKeever



Dave Jones

		LEADING RUSHER							
Dick Bass		Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD			
		121	549	49	4.5	5			
		LEADING PASSER							
Roman Gabriel		Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
		173	83	48.0	1321	11	60	5	7.64
		LEADING RECEIVER							
Tommy McDonald		No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD			
		67	1036	15.5	51	9			

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at Atlanta
Sept. 16—Chicago
Sept. 25—at Green Bay
Sept. 30—San Francisco
Oct. 9—at Detroit
Oct. 16—at Minnesota
Oct. 23—at Chicago
Oct. 30—Baltimore
Nov. 6—at San Francisco
Nov. 13—New York
Nov. 20—Minnesota
Nov. 27—at Baltimore
Dec. 4—Detroit
Dec. 11—BYE
Dec. 18—Green Bay



Dick Bass, no. 22, a tough, elusive runner, will be joined in Los Angeles backfield this year by ex-Green Bay bruiser, Tom Moore.

fullback who almost quit before the season started. The acquisition of halfback Tom Moore from Green Bay will bolster the running attack.

With Pope and Bass back to normal, the Rams must be more competent on offense. Roman Gabriel has seemingly won the job as quarterback, and his size and exceptional balance indicate a starring career ahead.

Bill Munson, who split the job with him last year, will be a fine replacement and, on another team, might possibly be the varsity regular.

Tight end Marlin McKeever is rough and big, and flanker Tommy McDonald (67 catches, 1036 yards, nine scores) was the second most productive receiver in the league. They will both be back and should maintain last year's performances.

The offensive line could stand some help, and one of the last things Svare did was draft for that help. His first choice, Tom Mack of Michigan, should almost win a tackle spot. Bruce Anderson, Mike Capshaw and Dan Gilbert—all tackles—will provide bench

strength and spur the regulars. *

Those regulars are center Ken Iman, guards Don Chuy and Joe Scibelli and tackles Joe Carollo and Roger Pillath or Charlie Cowan. Frank Molden, a promising rookie, was sent to Philadelphia in the Baughan deal. He is 6-5 and 285, and will be missed.

Defense should be better, if only for more experience. Guillory, Livingston and Currie seem to be the first three linebackers, but Livingston will be starting his 13th season and Currie his ninth. Should they falter, Woodlief and Byrd will be moved up and Baughan will take over—if he doesn't beat out one of the two veterans from the start.

The backfield will hurt, as it did last year. Chuck Lamson, Aaron Martin, Dan McIlhenny, Ed Meador and Clancy Williams are the veterans to choose from. Most likely McIlhenny will be the substitute. There was no help for the defensive secondary from the draft, the Rams having lost George Clayton (12th round) to the AFL, but they did sign Mike Dennis, Mississippi back

(in a deal with Atlanta, which had drafted him) and he could be pressed into service on defense if he is needed.

Allen should help. He brings with him 20 years of service under Halas, and his reputation is that of a defensive brain. He's got the raw material to work with on the Rams.

Thus, defense should improve. Offense, if only because injured stars are no longer injured, should get better. How much better will depend mainly on how Gabriel performs. He's got the receivers and some sound runners, and if he has a big year, the Rams could be the surprise team of the division.

They won't win a championship, because there are too many tougher teams above them. But they could beat out Minnesota and Detroit, and if they win many more than that (which should be seven), they could land in the first division.

But let's play it safe. Glory in sunny California may be another year away.

PROBABLE FINISH: 5

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—at San Francisco
 Sept. 18—Baltimore
 Sept. 25—at Dallas
 Oct. 2—Chicago
 Oct. 9—BYE
 Oct. 16—Los Angeles
 Oct. 23—at Baltimore
 Oct. 30—San Francisco
 Nov. 6—at Green Bay
 Nov. 13—Detroit
 Nov. 20—at Los Angeles
 Nov. 27—Green Bay
 Dec. 4—Atlanta
 Dec. 11—at Detroit
 Dec. 18—at Chicago

Fran Tarkenton, no. 10, Vikings' skilled quarterback, celebrates touchdown against Packers.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Most of the Vikings' assets played offense last season; and the best of them all was injured.

Tommy Mason played only 10 games, still chalked up 597 yards in 141 tries. Fullback Bill Brown played all the way, finished sixth in the league with 699 for 160. Minnesota had the best rushing totals of all the teams ex-

cept Cleveland (Jimmy Brown).

Passing was another plus, with Fran Tarkenton scrambling and twisting and cavorting sometimes 40 yards behind scrimmage and still managing to complete passes. He finished sixth in the NFL, hitting on 171 of 329 for 2609 yards and 19 TDs. Moreover, he was impossible to put on frequency charts. You never knew where he was going or what he was doing.

Because of him, the Vikings' receivers showed better than they really should. Flatley caught 50 for 896 yards; Brown 41 for 503; no one else caught more than 22. Mason snared 22.

The offensive line—Grady Alderman and Doug Davis, tackles; Larry Bowie and Milt Sunde, guards; Mick Tingelhoff, center—is as good as any the competition will offer. There is also depth here with men such as Ken Byers and Archie Sutton sitting on the bench.

The defense was stellar up front and spotty behind. This might get better if certain rookies come through—like linebackers Bryan Draper, Don Hansen and Vern Johnson and backs Ron Acks, Bob Hall and Mitch Terrell.

Strong will be the word on offense—there are even glamor rookies reporting to push the veterans and varsity subs—and defense could be a strong point . . . but there is no evidence of the latter yet.

It could make the Vikings better than second division.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Despite a coat of glib gloss that coach Norm Brocklin applies to last season's Vikings, there are certain aspects of this Minnesota team that he cannot explain away.

For instance, a weak-kneed defense. Minnesota gave up 403 points in 1965. That was good enough to finish 14th in a 14-team derby. The Dutchman says, "Our special teams, not regular defense, got us in trouble. They usually managed to see to it that the defense started out in a hole."

Maybe. But once in that hole, the regular defense failed to escape . . . and there have been no significant improvements yet. Of the three defensive elements, the Vikings' weakest by far was the backfield. Ed Sharockman, George Rose, Jeff Jordan and Karl Kassulke were the starters at the end of the season, after Dutch spent most of the year shifting. It was not a totally satisfactory arrangement, but it is one he is stuck with.

The charge-line and linebackers ranged from very good to downright lacking at various points in the season. Carl Eller and Jim Marshall are fine, strong ends, but Gary Larsen and Paul Dickson were erratic. Lonnie Warwick, Rip Hawkins and John Kir-



Tommy Mason



Jim Marshall



Paul Flatley

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Bill Brown	160	699	40	4.4	6

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Fran Tarkenton	329	171	52.0	2609	19	72	11	7.93

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Paul Flatley	50	896	17.9	58	7

by were the linebackers. Hawkins is a tested pro; the other two must improve.

Offensively, the Vikings were hurt by injuries to All-Pro back Tommy Mason, and as Mason goes, so will go the Minnesota rushing attack. Fran Tarkenton was still spectacular at quarterback and could use a bit of help from his receivers. Paul Flatley is fine. Gordy Smith has retired and flanker Tom Hall falls short.

The offensive line is anything but weak. It may be one of the best in the division.

1966 FORECAST

If your name is Norman Van Brocklin and you can field a pair of backs like Mason and Brown and a quarterback whose initials are Fran Tarkenton, you are in no offensive trouble.

But if your name is Norman Van Brocklin and you come up with the same defensive backfield, you might be in all kinds of discomfort.

That sums up the prospects for this year's edition of the Minnesota Vikings, who stopped their climb up the standings since their inception to slump to 7-7. There will be holes to fill. Errol Linden, the starting offensive tackle, was shipped to Atlanta along with defensive back Lee Calland and linebacker Bill Jobko. Perhaps rookie Doug Davis can fill Linden's spot; if not, second-year man Archie Sutton will.

Tight end Gordy Smith has retired. For him, Van Brocklin can use Hal Bedsole, who played only nine games before getting hurt. Paul Flatley is as fine a receiver as there is in the business, but he needs another star so they don't stack defenses. It will have to be either Bedsole or flanker Tom Hall, fast but unpredictable.

The line on offense cannot be improved if Davis or Sutton comes through. The backfield cannot be any better if Mason stays in one piece. Brown, the fullback, has become a full-fledged cement mixer, impossible to stop without having him kick and scream for three more yards.

But defense will worry Mr. Van Brocklin, and it might worry him right out of the first division. For a guy who almost quit in mid-season, he could be justified if he has to live with this backfield again.

Minnesota gave up 31 touchdowns through the air, most of any team. George Rose and Ed Sharockman are proven pros, but they had so much extra ground to cover making up for Karl Kassulke and Jeff Jordan that they were plain tired by halftime.

Jordan may be forgiven; he was a rookie and a good one at that. But Kassulke, a three-year man, was a weak link and shows no signs of altering that fact.

Van may go for help to recently acquired Dale Hackbart, signed as a free agent, or bench-riders Earsell Mackbee, Larry Vargo or Gary Hill.



Minnesota fullback Bill Brown, with ball, is one of the best inside runners in the NFL.

Rookies might help in here, but will need time and patience.

Linebacking, too, was on the verge of doubt, except for that steady man-in-the-middle, Rip Hawkins. John Kirby and Lonnie Warwick, both green and first-time starters, hurt the end areas. They figure to have absorbed a lot of knowledge in the season past, but just how well they use it can make the difference this time around.

Help for linebacking will not be as easy to come by. After sub Roy Winston and rookie Don Hansen, a touted star from Illinois, there is no depth.

Up front things are pretty well under control, but tackle Gary Larsen must improve or face losing his job to someone like Jim Prestel or top draft choice Jerry Shay, a 6-3, 240-pound All-America from Purdue.

No one, however, can fault Tarkenton at quarterback. Even Van, who was a fine one himself, found nothing to criticize and it is a generally accepted fact that the boy is on the brink of superstar status.

Quite simply, he drives people batty. "You cannot stay with an end as long as you have to, waiting for Tarkenton to stop running," says Giants' veteran back Dick Lynch. "They know where they're going on secondary patterns, and they just break away after making all their first moves. He makes it impossible to play defense steadily. He's like an eel."

The Eel should have a little more help. Mason likes to catch passes as well as run, but he can't do either sitting on the bench with his shoulder in a sling. Big Hal Bedsole, 6-4, and 235, lost his job to Gordy Smith, but Smith has retired and Bedsole is back in business. Now he knows how it is to sit on the bench, and he doesn't like it.

Flatley is great. He's fast, very deceptive and strong enough to break an initial tackle once he's made the catch. Not overly fast, he gets clear because of his tricky moves. And perhaps most important, he knows how to work with Tarkenton and the Scramble.

So the outlook for Minnesota, as with many other Western Division teams, depends on how much the defense can improve. There is nothing wrong with the Vikings' offense; if anything, it is better than it has been given credit for being.

It has a few questions—like replacing Linden and Smith—but that appears to be well in hand. The big thing is finding defensive backs who don't collapse on the long pass plays. Should Van come up with an answer here, a higher finish can be expected.

But it's tough to get a new unit going in its first season, hence the outlook is not entirely rosy.

PROBABLE FINISH: 6

DETROIT LIONS

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES



Lions must replace talented receiver Terry Barr, no. 41, who says he's retiring this year.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

In recent years, Lion strong points have been a crushing defense and a poised relief quarterback. Now that defense must be questioned and the quarterbacking is no more — subs George Izo and Tom Myers cannot do what the traded Earl Morrall did. And No. 1 man Milt Plum will need help.

But last season the Detroit defense was as good as ever. Roger Brown is maybe the best tackle in the league. At 6-6 and 300 pounds, he has every reason to be. McCord is 33 years old; thus, he could slow down. Karras, 30, seems to be a temperamental player.

Linebacking was good but, again, will it hold up? Wayne Walker, a nine-year vet, is pushing 30. Mike Lucci was good but showed a need for experience. Wally Hilgenberg is superb. Joe Schmidt is now a coach.

The defensive backfield? Here are weaknesses. Jim Kearney, Dick LeBeau, Bruce Maher, Wayne Rasmus-

sen, Bobby Smith, Bobby Thompson and Tom Vaughan all played at one time or another. Night Train Lane has been gone.

LeBeau, best of the lot, is 30 and in his ninth season. Vaughan, Maher, Rasmussen and Thompson all showed great potential — but potential is seldom enough.

Running can be good. Joe Don Looney has all the equipment and Amos Marsh has shown he can do it. But Looney is, unpredictable — on and off the field. Marsh was the team's best, gaining 495 yards in 131 tries, but he has had a habit of following a good year with a bad one in his six seasons.

There will have to be assistance given to the end corps. Terry Barr will be missed and Gail Cogdill may be disenchanted after problems with team officials. Ron Kramer at tight end is still good, but not the man he was in Green Bay. Sub Johnny Henderson has failed to impress. Third-round draft pick Bill Malinchak from Indiana, 6-1 and nearly 200, could help.

Last year's Lions finished 6-7-1. But last year's Lions also finished as a very unhappy group of football players, and nothing over the winter has done much to change that attitude.

It is on this, rather than mere physical deficiencies, that the Lions are figured to be in trouble in 1966.

It is not fair to say the strain started with Joe Don Looney or Gail Cogdill or Alex Karras. Let it suffice to say that many players felt things were not as they should be — and Cogdill was suspended after the season for saying so at a dinner engagement.

Weak is not the word for Detroit's defense — old is a better one. Weak is not the word for Detroit's offense, either — erratic may be more apropos.

But the Lions were weak at quarterback, once new coach Harry Gilmer decided to keep Milt Plum and trade Earl Morrall. Plum was spotty; Morrall helped New York to a surprising second-place tie in the East.

The receiver corp isn't weak, but there are problems. Cogdill cannot help but feel resentful at his off-season handling. All-Pro end Terry Barr has retired. The backfield should be Looney and Nick Pietrosante or Amos Marsh. Looney can't be counted on, Nick is old and Marsh had a questionable career at Dallas before joining the Lions last year.

Defense is great but aging. Roger Brown, Karras, Darris McCord and Jerry Rush will be a fine charge-line if they stay together. Some help is needed in the linebacking and the secondary.

1966 FORECAST

Nothing can be said in regard to Detroit's future without bringing in the reports of dissension and personality clashes between the players, the players and the coaches and the coaches and the management.

It was apparent last year, despite efforts to pooh-pooh the situation, that the Lions were not a happy team. Then it broke open when Cogdill was suspended for telling why.

He put a large part of the trouble squarely in the lap of Looney, the storied young back who has been with three teams in less than three seasons. He was New York's No. 1 pick; was then traded to Baltimore before the



Gail Cogdill



Milt Plum



Roger Brown

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Amos Marsh	131	495	62	3.8	6

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Milt Plum	308	143	46.4	1710	12	55	19	5.55

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Pat Studstill	28	389	13.9	55	5



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—Chicago
Sept. 18—at Pittsburgh
Sept. 25—Atlanta
Oct. 2—at Green Bay
Oct. 9—Los Angeles
Oct. 16—at Baltimore
Oct. 23—at San Francisco
Oct. 30—Green Bay
Nov. 6—at Chicago
Nov. 13—at Minnesota
Nov. 20—Baltimore
Nov. 24—San Francisco
Dec. 4—at Los Angeles
Dec. 11—Minnesota
Dec. 18—BYE

Veteran Lion fullback Nick Pietrosante, no. 33, is among the backs who could give Detroit a sound running game for '66 season.

1964 season opened; and was sent to Detroit after that season ended.

He has been in personal, headline-type trouble in each city.

Cogdill also said that many of the players could not forgive coach Gilmer for making a snap judgment on quarterback Earl Morrall and trading him to the Giants. Gilmer, despite his bravado, went begging and came up with George Izo from Washington, hardly a suitable replacement.

Pietrosante has also voiced disapproval of the Lions' way of doing things, and Karras has indicated he is not the happiest of men, either.

So it remains to be seen what kind of season the Lions will have. It could be much better than this prediction if all the problems are ironed out and the boys concentrate on football.

The offensive line, which must be extra-fine to keep Plum out of trouble, may not meet this added burden. Tackles Daryl Sanders and J.D. Smith, with help from Roger Shoals, are good. Guards John Gordy and John Gonzaga, with Ted Karras for a sub, are aging. Center Ed Flanagan may be the best young pivotman in the game.

Looney and Marsh (or Pietrosante, Tom Watkins and Bob Felts) can do

the job. That is not the question. Will they?

Looney had a "down" year, in the eyes of the coaches. He played in nine games — he was injured, too — and gained 356 yards in 114 carries. Old Man Pietrosante had more ground in less chances.

Cogdill, at his best, is a fine receiver. Last year, after being injured, he caught only 20 passes for 247 yards and scored not at all. He says he is healed and he says he wants to play.

The rookie crop is good. Malinchak set all sorts of records at Indiana, and may help — right away. Guard Doug Van Horn is a big bruiser from Ohio State and can help right away on the line. Flanker Willie Walker and linebacker Bill Cody can also make the team. A sleeper is 11th choice Jack O'Billovich of Oregon State, a linebacker who earned rave reviews in the Pacific northwest.

Defense can remain strong as long as the veterans do. If men like McCord or Karras or Brown slip, there is little bench depth for Gilmer to draw on. This is not an expected situation, but considering age and all the other "intangible" factors, it is not impossible, either.

The linebackers will only get better. Lucci and Hilgenberg are two excellent youngsters, and Walker, though 29, is in fine shape and should have four or five more full-speed seasons. If an injury suddenly hits the linebackers, there may be unexpected surprise from Ernie Clark, a four-year man from Michigan State, or the rookies O'Billovich and Cody.

The defensive secondary will be weak and there is not a great deal that can be done other than waiting for the experience to set in. It is here that Detroit will be hurt; and it is here that the tough teams in the division — and all of them are just that — will prod and strike.

Therefore, the overall outlook for the Lions cannot be gauged without taking into account the many unique features of the team's mental state. It may develop that all is healed and smoothed over. It may also develop that nothing has changed.

Until all precincts are in, the forecast for Detroit is dismal.

PROBABLE FINISH: 7

(continued from page 29)

angling towards the ball carrier when a guy in a scarlet jersey cut in front of him and rammed a helmet into Ray Nitschke's mouth.

Two of his teeth spilled onto the ground and two more snapped in half. While the Illinois band played and the Illinois cheering section chanted "rah, rah, Nitschke" three times, they stuffed cotton into the gap and sent him back to play.

Now, even when he scowls, his four front teeth jut forward in a perpetual synthetic smile, which is the way it is when you get them from the laboratory.

And once, two years ago, Tommy Watkins was carrying the ball for Detroit and Ray Nitschke came up from middle linebacker to meet him. As they came together, Nitschke brought his right forearm down in a chopping motion and when it hit Tommy Watkins' helmet, the bone shattered.

"You hate to call a time out," Ray Nitschke said, "because you know you might need them later and I was still on my feet so I finished up the series and then I had to go out."

He is 29 years old and he is almost bald and he wears thick glasses with heavy, dark frames. Yesterday, sitting in the small ante room outside the Packers' dressing room, he wore a green cardigan and a brown sports shirt and corduroy trousers. His large frame filled the small wooden chair.

On Sunday the Packers play the Browns for the world championship and the difference between winning and losing will mean about 3,300 bucks per man. On Sunday Ray Nitschke's assignment will be to pry that money out of Jimmy Brown's pocket. This is like trying to mug J. Edgar Hoover at an F.B.I. cocktail party.

It is worth taking a moment, therefore, to examine the man who has to do the job. There are parallel concentric bruises on each of the knuckles on Ray Nitschke's right hand. When he stood up and walked over to a nearby cigaret machine there was a noticeable limp to his stride because he has been playing with a pulled hamstring muscle. It is, he says, a small matter. These things happen.

The men who play this game are fond of talking about things like pride. But the men who play at middle linebacker are somewhat more realistic. "Yes," Ray Nitschke says, "it does take a special kind of man. You have to want to hit or you don't belong. You have to make them respect you. You have to make them conscious of the fact that you are going to be there."

It is Ray Nitschke's theory that every time he makes a tackle... every time he uses his fist or his forearm in anger... he is actually doing two jobs. He is piling up a play and he is sending a message.

"You have to make them remember. If you do, the next time they come, they are going to be a little shy about it. The whole premise is to make them think about the next play."

There is a kind of fascination to Ray Nitschke today because he has in recent years, by his own admission, reformed. Orphaned at 13 and left to mature on his own he became a wild kid.

"You had," a fellow said, "a bad guy reputation."

"Not exactly," Nitschke replied. "I mean maybe I had it but what I really was, was immature. I got mean sometimes and I fought sometimes and people couldn't do anything with me."

This meshes fairly closely with the earlier stories about Ray Nitschke which said he drank too much and fought too much and was not about to win the Miss America Hospitality Contest, even among his own teammates.

Marriage and fatherhood have changed all of that. "What the hell," he explained, "I had nobody... you know how it is. I had nobody in the world to worry about. Now I got someone."

He is still, however, the same man on the football field and on Sunday if Jim Brown goes wide, Ray Nitschke must carry the pursuit and if he comes up the middle, Ray Nitschke must meet him head-on.

"We've got to shut off their running," he said, looking down at his hands. "If we do that, then they've got to put the ball up in the air where anybody can grab it. So I

have to go key off the fullback. That's my job. I'll have to key off Jimmy Brown."

In the words of Emlen Tunnell, poet laureate of the whirlpool bath set: "This should be a very nice war."

The Waiting

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The car turns left at the narrow street alongside Curley Lambeau Field and moves alongside the low wooden bleachers, which front the practice area. School is out and 30 or 40 kids mill around watching the men halfway across the flat open area as they come in groups of four to pound their shoulders against the wooden practice sled.

There is nothing to hold the wind back and it cuts across the wide plain and a Green Bay city cop approaches the car and says:

"If you're from the press, it's O.K. but no cameras. Coach says he doesn't want any cameras out here."

In the middle of the field, the offensive team comes out of its huddle and lines up over the ball. The players' numbers do not correspond with their Sunday jerseys. It is not so much a protective measure against prying eyes as it is a return to normalcy. The Packers have done it this way all season and now they are trying very hard to make this game just like the 15 which have gone before it.

The outdoor practice lasts an hour and 15 minutes. "An hour to work," Vinnie Lombardi explains later in the coaches' room, "and 15 minutes to get the lead out of their tails."

There has been a meeting earlier in the morning and there will be another one after lunch. This, too, is the way it has been all season. There is no point trying to look into a man's mind to learn what he really feels. The coach has been doing that all year and even he says it can't be done.

"You look at them all week and you listen to them and you say to yourself they are hopeless and then," Vincent Lombardi sighed, "they go out and beat somebody's brains in. Other weeks, it's the reverse. You cannot put the human mind in a pigeon hole."

The coach doesn't try. All week the projectors have been running on the second floor of the Packers' administration building. All week Paul Warfield and Frank Ryan and Jimmy Brown have been running over the walls and through the coaching staff's heads. "Run the play again. Let's take another look." Back and forth... back and forth.

Down the hall, the I.B.M. machines clatter away. The Packers have the only fullscale I.B.M. setup in football. They can take a card and shove a needle through the punched holes and they can tell you what the Browns do on second and short yardage... second and long yardage... from the right hash mark... from the left hash mark.

"We have full dossiers on every player in the league, but this is really for trading situations. We don't run Modzelewski through the machine to find out something because we should already know it," Lombardi explains.

Perhaps, but James Brown is coming to town and it is an out bet that Jimmy Brown has been in and out of that I.B.M. machine so many times this week, the Packers can tell you everything that has ever happened to him from adolescent acne to the way the Packers gang tackled him in a night exhibition game in Cleveland this summer.

"These methods are fine," Lombardi says "as long as you don't coach with them. Once the machine said: 'Anybody with more than a 130 I.Q. won't hit.' The machine is great but it can't coach. Football is still blocking and tackling."

The week is half gone but the men who will play this Sunday are not doing it for game-salaries. This is the extra money. They are playing for cars and house payments and dentures. The waiting doesn't get any shorter for them.

This week, as they have every week since the season began back in September, Bart Starr and Zeke Bratkowski meet at Starr's house. After dinner, they sit alone and talk about this possibility and that possibility. This is how game plans are digested and part of the waiting is planning.

(continued on page 49)

PRO FOOTBALL'S TOP QUARTERBACKS

JOHNNY UNITAS

BALTIMORE COLTS

Att.	Comp.	Pct	Yds.	TD
282	164	58.2	2530	23
Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.		
12	4.3	8.97		



(Photo By Malcolm Emmons)

RUDY BUKICH

CHICAGO BEARS

Att.	Comp.	Pct	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
312	176	56.4	2641	20	9	2.9	8.46



(Photo By Ken Regan)

JOHN BRODIE

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Att.	Comp.	Pct	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
391	242	61.9	3112	30	16	4.1	7.96

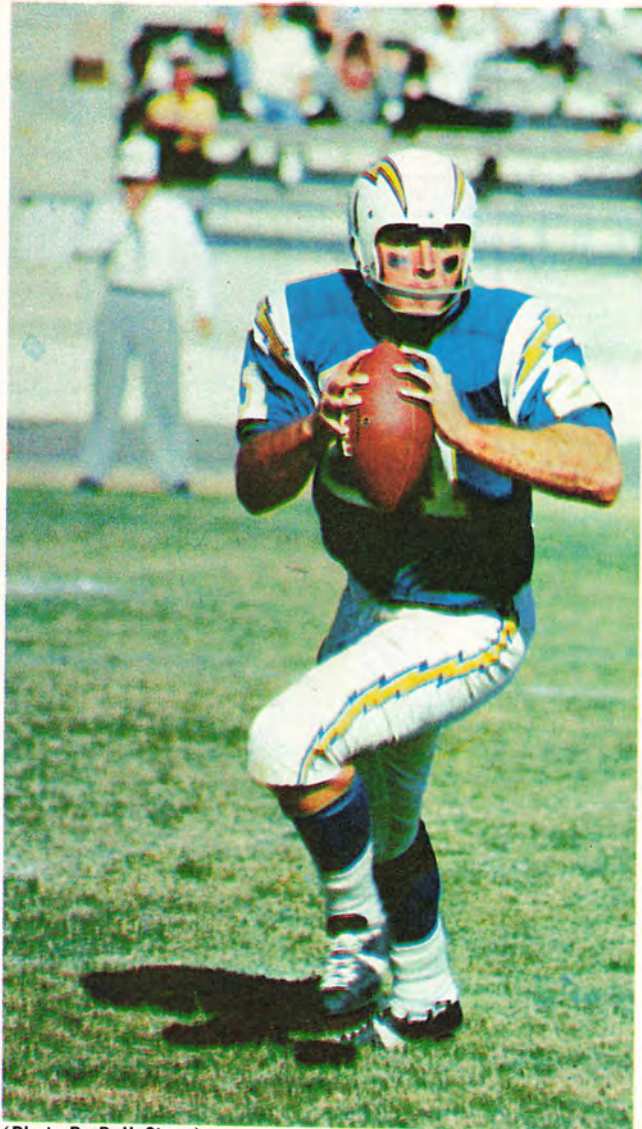


(Photo By Ken Regan)

JOHN HADL

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
348	174	50.0	2798	20	21	.060	8.04



(Photo By R. H. Stagg)



(Photo By Barton Silverman)

JOE NAMATH

NEW YORK JETS

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
340	164	48.2	2220	18	15	.044	6.53



JACK KEMP

BUFFALO BILLS

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
391	179	45.8	2368	10	18	.046	6.06

(Photo By R. H. Stagg)



BART STARR

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Att.	Comp.	Pct	Yds.	TD
251	140	55.8	2055	16
Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.		
9	3.6	8.19		

(Photos by Vernon Biever)

FRAN TARKENTON

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Att.	Comp.	Pct	Yds.	TD
329	171	52.0	2609	19
Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.		
11	3.3	7.93		





(Photo By Ken Regan)

FRANK RYAN

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
243	119	49.0	1751	18	13	5.3	7.21



(Photo By Tony Tomsic)

EARL MORRALL

NEW YORK GIANTS

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
302	155	51.3	2446	22	12	4.0	8.10

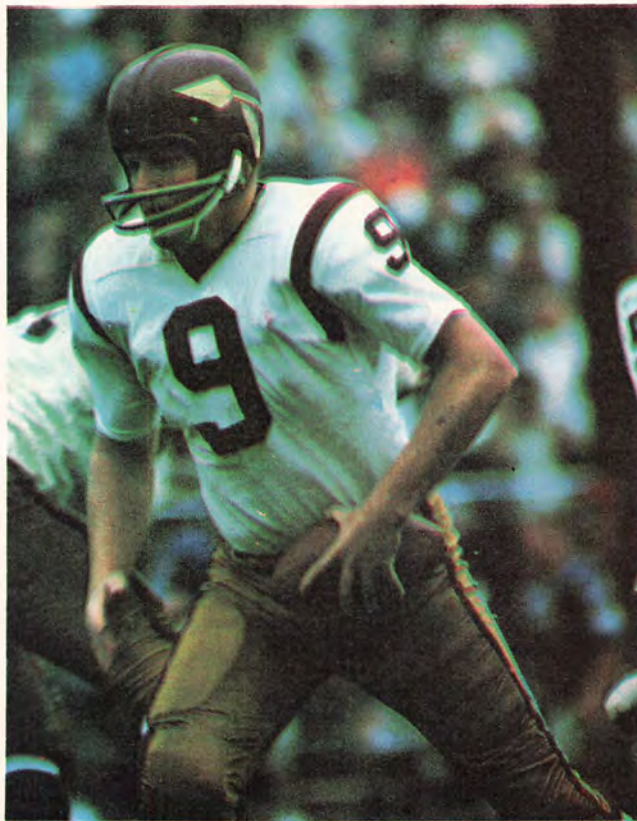


(Photo By Ken Regan)

NORM SNEAD

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
288	150	52.1	2346	15	13	4.5	8.15



(Photo By Malcolm Emmons)

SONNY JURGENSEN

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yds.
356	190	53.4	2367	15	16	4.5	6.65

(continued from page 44)

But on Sunday the human factors get into it. Bill Glass and Paul Wiggins and Dick Modzelewski come charging across the line at Starr or Bratkowski. Paul Warfield gets a step behind a green Jersey.

It happens one way or the other, one time too many, then the machine and the planning are liars. Then, in front of 60,000 people, they start all over again.

Meanwhile, everybody waits. The Packers go out to the Oneida Street practice field and work each morning. Out in Cleveland, the Browns do the same. The Browns can kill a little time by losing Friday for traveling.

But it boils down to the same thing. The players still wait and the violence builds. On a clear day, you still can't see Sunday.

The Game

GREEN BAY—The guy came busting into the barber shop at the Northland Hotel like a storm on the way to happening. He jammed his coat onto a hanger, retraced his steps past the green and white "Tittletown, USA" sign and bounced into the chair.

"I swear to God if there's another football game in this town, I'm going to quit this business. Cheese...cheese...cheese. Why the hell does everything around here have to be cheese?"

"What's the matter, Blaine?" the barber asked.

"What's the matter? Alice in Dairyland can't get into the ball park, that's all."

"Oh," the barber said.

"Now I got the Governor on my back and they're calling up all day for me to get her tickets. And it has to be a seat next to the Governor. Boy, oh, boy."

"Why don't you call Lombardi?" the barber asked and immediately both discarded the suggestion. Calling Vincent Lombardi to the telephone the week of any game and asking him to get tickets for the living symbol of Wisconsin cheese is like telling Moses: "Do that Red Sea bit just one more time, baby." Somebody sure as hell has to get drowned.

Alice is not the only one in trouble here. Yesterday a customer over at Bessie's Newsstand just up the block from the Northland, was saying that it was a damn shame that there were so many Milwaukee season ticket holders that a native couldn't get into his own stadium.

"Milwaukee only got five percent," a guy behind the counter offered. "The trouble isn't that. The trouble is how the hell you gonna put 70,000 people into a 50,000-seat stadium."

There is a good chance that this game could draw 70,000 here with a break in the weather if the seats were available. The Packers do not own Green Bay. Green Bay owns the Packers and despite the emotion generated by last week's sudden-death contest and the long New Year's Eve everybody around here is ready for this game.

Last week, for example, a very nice man jumped out of a car outside Curley Lambeau Field, ran through the parking area and greeted a group of six tourists with both hands.

"Hi there," the man said, "I'm your senator, Bill Proxmire. Nice to see you out here."

"Hi there," a fellow replied, "my senators are named Clifford Case and Harrison Williams and their senators are named Jake Javits and Bobby Kennedy. Nice to see you."

"Well welcome to Wisconsin in any event," the senator replied. "Enjoy your stay." Paul Hornung couldn't have made a better pivot.

Actually, the Packers have done an incredible job putting together this championship game on a week's notice. Within 30 minutes after last week's late late show, the grounds crew had already covered half the field with marsh grass. It may develop that the precaution was unnecessary because the weather has been relatively mild but they are taking no chances.

Meanwhile, you do not have to be Knute Rockne or even one of those football nuts who rides the commuter train from Scarsdale to Manhattan to figure out how both sides

plan to play it today.

"Every man," says Vincent Lombardi, "runs to a pattern whether he's a writer, a salesman or a tackle. Sometimes you try to break away but in the end, you always come back to it."

So the Packers are going to send Paul Hornung wide and Jim Taylor up the middle, if his limbs are healed, and they are going to work like hell at exploiting a Cleveland pass defense which has been something less than terrifying.

And the Browns will throw to Gary Collins and Paul Warfield and occasionally go with Ernie Green but their game—and in a sense this whole contest—is going to turn on the immediate life and times of James Brown, fullback.

There has never been a better one and the Packers are keenly aware of this. Earlier in the week a man had asked Jerry Kramer, who holds the Packer indoor armory record for needling, what he thinks is the best way to stop Brown.

"Why you just pick up Willie Davis," Kramer said, "and throw him at him."

This is somewhat extreme—especially if you happen to be Willie Davis—but it puts the thing in context.

The Mismatch

GREEN BAY—The final hours of Green Bay's longest New Year tip-toed in with red-rimmed eyes and snow-tipped lashes. Over in Appleton, 30 miles to the south, the Cleveland Browns slid through the parking lot at the Holiday Inn, boarded a chartered bus and took an hour and a half to make an hour trip over slippery highways.

It was the closest the Browns came to being on schedule all day.

The Packers of Green Bay and Vincent Lombardi (there is no special significance to the order) won the championship of Pete Rozelle's world, 23-12, here yesterday just as people around this town have been saying they would all week long. They won it by the most elementary of maneuvers. With selfish little feet and greedy little hands, they simply refused to give the other side the ball.

This became particularly apparent in the final quarter when the Browns managed to get their muddy, frost-bitten fingers on the football for a grand total of five plays including a punt. In short, the Browns flew roughly 500 miles from Cleveland only to get snowed on, rained on and stomped on. It must be assumed, therefore, that last night's charter flight home was not exactly the champagne special.

Strangely, the day did not begin well for the home side. All week long the weather had been good and the playing surface at Curley Lambeau Field had snuggled under a protective covering of hay. At 8 a.m., it began to turn white.

So did Peter Rozelle, who asked Mark Duncan, his supervisor of officials, what he was going to do about it. Duncan got into a cab and went out to the Brown County Veterans' War Memorial Arena, which takes longer to say than do, and tried to borrow the blue dye used in marking

(continued on page 75)

Mud doesn't affect Paul Hornung as he bursts for sizeable yardage.



BUFFALO BILLS



Linebacker Mike Stratton, no. 58, helps make Buffalo's defense perhaps the toughest in AFL.

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—at San Diego
 Sept. 11—Kansas City
 Sept. 18—Miami
 Sept. 25—Houston
 Oct. 2—at Kansas City
 Oct. 8—Boston
 Oct. 16—San Diego
 Oct. 23—Bye
 Oct. 30—at New York
 Nov. 6—at Miami
 Nov. 13—New York
 Nov. 20—at Houston
 Nov. 24—at Oakland
 Dec. 4—at Boston
 Dec. 11—Bye
 Dec. 18—Denver

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Buffalo relied on the big D—defense—and the clutch arm of quarterback Jackie Kemp to repeats as AFL champion. And more significantly, the title defense was accomplished despite the absence of the Bills' two best pass receivers, Elbert Dubenion and Glenn Bass, who were lost for the season early with leg injuries.

The Bills finished 10-3-1 in the Eastern division, then climaxed their courageous season with a 23-0 thrashing of San Diego in the title game. The performances won for Coach Lou Saban "Coach of the Year" honors and Kemp the "Most Valuable Player" award.

It was another big year for Buffalo stalwarts with no less than 13 of the players making all-league in various media selections. But it was the fearsome Buffalo defense that told most of the story.

Defensive tackles Tom Sestak and Jim Dunaway, defensive ends Tom Day and Ron McDole, and linebackers Mike Stratton, John Tracey and Harry Jacobs held opponents to a meager five touchdowns on the ground for the entire season. In one game, against Kansas City, this stingy crew limited the Chiefs' big bruisers, Mack Lee Hill and Curtis McClinton, to a mere 36 yards.

Buffalo had the strongest secondary in the league. The Bills led the league

in interceptions, picking off 32 enemy aeriels. Sophomore defensiveback Hagood Clarke was second in the loop with seven steals, but the entire defensive backfield unit of Butch Byrd, Booker Edgerson, George Saines and Charley Warner was the most envied in the AFL.

Byrd, a second-year man from Boston University, grabbed off a big interception from John Hadl in the championship game and also returned three punts 87 yards.

Warner, a lightning back, finished second in league kickoff returns with 32 for 825 yards, including the longest jaunt of the season, a 102-yard flight against the Patriots in Boston.

Kemp, who was fourth in passing in the AFL, with 179 completions in 340 attempts, made his tosses count. Saban called on alternate quarterback Daryle Lamonica far less in 1965, and it was Kemp who directed the Bills to their important triumphs. Statistically, Jackie's best day was in the 33-21 victory over New York when he passed for 292 yards.

He destroyed the Chief's Western title hopes by completing 22 for 295 yards to spark a 34-25 Bills victory.

Early in the year Hadl dazzled the Bills and led the Chargers to a 34-3 rout in Buffalo. But in the money game, Kemp, abetted by the mighty Bill defense, outdueled Hadl 155 yards to 140.

Soccer-style kicking specialist Pete Gogolak booted a record number of field goals (28) and lost the scoring title to the Patriots' Gino Cappelletti on the final day of the season. Veteran Wray Carlton had his most successful campaign, leading Bills rushers with 592 yards, which included an 80-yard TD dash against Houston. Rookie end Paul Costa of Notre Dame helped take up the slack when Dubenion and Bass left with 21 receptions for 401 yards.

After it was all over, a satisfied Saban quit for a coaching post at the University of Maryland saying he had "no more worlds to conquer." Kemp summed it up this way: "Losing Bass and Dubenion presented us with a tremendous challenge and gave us greater incentive to repeat as champs."

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The Bills weakest point was their rushing game. They had the least first



Glenn Bass



Tom Sestak



Jack Kemp

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Wray Carlton	156	592	3.79	80	6

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Jack Kemp	391	179	45.8	2368	10	78	18	6.06

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Billy Joe	27	271	10.0	78	2



Halfback Bob Smith, no. 20, and his fellow runners will have to perk up Buffalo rushing game that was one of AFL's worst in '65.

downs on the ground of any team in the loop, (55). And their average gain of 3.29 per carry was the second poorest in the AFL.

Billy Joe, who came to the Bills in exchange for Cookie Gilchrist, proved to be a disappointment. He was plagued by bunion troubles and the Bills' workhorse was Carlton.

Standout that he was, Kemp also could be erratic. The Bills passing game was seventh in the league, although the loss of Dubenion and Bass had to be considered.

Buffalo also gave up the most first downs via passing. But here it must also be noted the with and the tough Buffalo frontier breathing down on enemy quarterbacks, more passes were attempted against the champs (502) than against any other club.

Defensively it was hard to find much weak about Saban's men.

1966 FORECAST

Saban is gone, but the inheritance has fallen into the able hands of Joel Collier, an assistant to Saban for nine years.

Collier, who was an end at Northwestern in his college days, first joined Saban as an aide in 1957 at Western Illinois and the pair moved on together to Boston in 1960. When Saban came to Buffalo, so did Collier, so it's safe to assume Collier will probably follow in the Saban tradition.

The Bills are the choice to repeat for an unprecedented third straight Eastern crown. A return to full effectiveness by Dubenion and Bass would make the Buffalo behemoths an even bigger favorite.

Buffalo will again be strong on the offensive front with standout tackles Stew Barber and Dick Hudson, guards Billy Shaw and Al Bemiller and center Dave Behrman, who missed the title game because of an injury.

The Bills lost some back-up strength in the line with the departure of former

Ohio State tackle Jim Davidson to Miami along with Howard Simpson and 247-pound sophomore defensive tackle Tom Keating to Oakland as part payment for the Bo Roberson trade. Roberson, whom the Bills acquired to bolster the pass receiving corps in '65, went to Miami under the expansion plan. So did fullback Joe.

Owner Ralph Wilson Jr. quit what he termed the "crazy" price war for college stars when Buffalo gave up on number one draft choice Mike Dennis of Mississippi, a halfback offered \$300,000 from the Bills "in a moment of weakness."

The Bills, of all Eastern Division teams, could afford for the moment to sit still. Their defensive talent is unquestionably the league's best and their offensive line is strong.

But Buffalo did sign 10 of 20 draft selections. Two prize catches could be a pair of Arkansas sparklers. Number four choice, Bobby Burnett, a 6-1 192-pound halfback from Smackover, Ark., could give the Bills some additional running thrust.

The other Razorback signed was split end Bobby Crockett (6-1, 195), whom Boston Patriot Coach Mike Holovak was high on after watching him in the Senior Bowl. Holovak coached one of the squads in that game.

Buffalo also signed flanker Ken "Dude" McLean, a flanker from Texas A & M, tackles Wayne De Sutter of Western Illinois and Bill Earhart of Bowling Green; linebackers Ed Russell of Illinois and Paul Guidry of McNeese State; and Greg Lashutha of Ohio State, a defensive end and 18th selection.

The Bills corralled three defensive backs although they are obviously set in that department. They were Ken Ambruski of Maryland, Tony King of Findlay and Tony Golmont of North Carolina State.

The Bills' chief concern will be the running game although they are being guarded about the chances of Dubenion and Bass coming back to peak form. Daryle Lamonica, who with Kemp forms the best quarterback tandem in the AFL, could wind up with another club if the Bills go bidding for an additional receiver.

Perhaps the most promising young player to watch this season will be tight end Paul Costa, who made great progress last fall, particularly in the late season as he took a lot of the burden off veteran Ernie Warlick and flanker Ed Rutkowski.

The Bills also lost swingman guard George Flint to Oakland in the Roberson trade, but are hopeful that 1964 top redshirt Remi Prudhomme of Louisiana State, who was injured all last season, will move into Flint's spot.

Fine things are also expected from Marty Schottenheimer, the University of Pittsburgh linebacking great, who learned a lot last season from the respected Bill veterans.

Pete Gogolak was talked into renewing his contract with the Bills and will be back to give the team an expert place kicker again while Paul Maguire, who also plays linebacker, gives Buffalo one of the dangerous punting specialists.

Much will depend on Kemp again. The 10-year veteran is still only 30 years old and he has become the AFL's steadiest field general. If he approaches last season and backs Wray Carlton and Joe Auer and Bob Smith gain sufficient ground, Buffalo should have enough to repeat after a close division fight with Boston and New York.

More and more the past few years, the trend in the AFL has been to solid defensive play and Buffalo has no peers in this department. If the trend continues, the Bills have to be rated as the team to beat.

PROBABLE FINISH: 1

BOSTON PATRIOTS



Patriots, dark jerseys, couldn't consistently mount their usually ferocious defense in '65.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Mike Holovak and his Patriots would rather forget about last season. Pre-season predictions figured the Patriots, the 1963 Eastern Division champions, to battle it out with the defending titlist Buffalo Bills for the Eastern crown.

But the Patriots never did get off the ground, losing their first five games and going seven before breaking loose for a 22-6 victory over the undefeated San Diego Chargers at Balboa Stadium. It was the Pats' most impressive showing, but by then it was too late.

Bright spots were few. The leading luminary was Nick Buoniconti, the tough, tireless bulwark, whom rivals even concede might be football's best middle linebacker. Buoniconti, a squat, roving battler, was all over the place as usual and was a unanimous all-star selection.

Gino Cappelletti again established himself as the league's premier scorer with 132 points. The receiver-place-

kicker caught nine touchdown passes and booted 17 field goals, including a 53-yarder against the Jets.

He climaxed the season with a 28-point scoring effort in Boston's 42-14 rout over Houston to overtake Buffalo's Pete Gogolak for scoring honors.

Rookie fullback Jim Nance of Syracuse, who was criticized by Holovak at mid-season for being overweight, responded admirably. The turning point was the 10-10 tie with Kansas City in Boston. That day Nance was the game's leading ground-gainer with 66 yards in 17 carries and he caught three passes for 22 yards. He scored five touchdowns for the season.

Tommy Hennessey, a 24-year old rookie from Holy Cross, was in the running for rookie of the year honors until the plucky cornerback tore some ligaments in his knee in the second San Diego game, Oct. 31, which finished him for the season.

Jim Whalen, a former Boston College standout, showed promise as a tight end. The rookie caught 22 passes

for 381 yards while a pair of rookie offensive linemen, Tom Neville and Justin Canale, teammates at Mississippi State, blossomed late in the season to replace starters Bob Yates and Billy Neighbors at tackle and guard.

Canale also proved to be a powerful kickoff man.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Injuries and illness dealt crippling early-season blows to Boston. The troubles began when linebacker Tom Addison and durable guard Charlie Long came down with the mumps at training camp in July. Neither fully recovered his old strength.

Babe Parilli, the league's All-Star quarterback in 1964 with 31 touchdown passes, had a bad year. Harassed by unsympathetic Boston fans, the 35-year old ex-Kentucky star finished sixth in league passing with 173 completions in 426 attempts and 18 touchdowns.

But much of the blame could be traced to the offensive line. Parilli, who closed well as Boston won its last three games, and backup man Eddie Wilson, were thrown for 347 lost yards, second highest in the league.

The Patriots' offensive statistics were indeed grim. They had the lowest rushing average (2.99) in the loop. Highly touted rookie Joe Bellino, a Heisman Trophy winner at Navy, found a four-year layoff tough to overcome, injured his heel and was finally put on the disabled list. He was too small to be a runner or a flanker.

Larry Garron, perennially the team's best ballcarrier, fractured a collarbone in a pre-season game and was lost for several games. Until Nance developed, the ground game was nil.

Art Graham, the team's best receiver, missed much of the season because of a hair-line ankle fracture. Larry Eisenhauer, a top defensive end in the past, was plagued by foot trouble. Billy Neighbors had knee difficulty.

Holovak's medical chart drove him and trainer Bill Bates to distraction.

The famous blitz was absent a lot of the time and in one game, a 30-20 victory by the Jets at Fenway Park, Joe Namath, aided by some fine blocking by Matt Snell and Bill Mathis, outfoxed the Beantown Blitzers.

One of Holovak's laments was that he never could get both of his units to jell. When the Patriots' defense held



Larry Garron



Babe Parilli



Nick Buoniconti

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD
Jim Nance	111	321	2.89	20	5

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Babe Parilli	426	173	40.6	2597	18	73	26	6.10

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Jim Colclough	40	677	16.9	41	3

San Diego to a 13-13 tie in Boston, the offense had four cracks at the Charger goal line but couldn't put the ball across.

Interceptions also killed the Patriots at key moments. With the Pats trailing the Raiders 23-21 at Oakland, and making a gallant comeback bid, Gus Otto picked off a Parilli aerial for a clinching touchdown in the final minutes.

A look at the league statistics gives an explanation on why things were bad in Boston last year. The Patriots were last in team scoring; last in kick-off returns; seventh in club punting; seventh in interceptions; last in touchdowns; last in punt returns; and only veteran Jim Colclough ranked in the top ten in pass receptions. He finished ninth with 40 catches for 677 yards.

1966 FORECAST

The Patriots wasted no time after the college draft in an effort to get themselves back on the winning trail and results could pay big dividends.

There were rumblings in the press about Boston parsimony when it came to bidding for the nation's top college stars. So the Pats' management opened the purse strings and scored rather heavily.

The Pats signed their two top choices while some of the other pro teams were still trying to land anyone. Mike Holovak wanted big linemen and his first step was to sign Purdue's All-America offensive tackle Karl Singer, a 6-4½, 235-pounder hailed as the best offensive lineman in the Big Ten. Then, in a simultaneous announcement, Jim Boudreaux, a 6-4, 250-pound tackle from Louisiana Tech, who plays either way, was signed. Holovak plans to use Boudreaux as a defensive end.

So anxious were the Patriots to get Notre Dame's All-America guard Dick Arrington, that Massachusetts' Attorney General Edward W. Brooke helped persuade Arrington, a redshirt, to pick Boston over the Cleveland Browns. Arrington was a Brown fan and lived in nearby Erie, Pa.

But the biggest news the Patriots made was the acquisition of quarterback John Huarte, the \$200,000 taxi squad man for the New York Jets by way of Notre Dame. They gave up popular local boy, Jimmy Colclough to get Huarte, whom they hope will not only succeed Babe Parilli ultimately but will also prove to be a valid drawing card.

Holovak says that Parilli is still his number one quarterback and that Huarte will have to take the job away from the Babe. There is also some concern about Huarte's size (5-11, 185) and his side-arm passing, but Boston is obviously counting on him as its quarterback of the future.

The Patriots may have solved a troublesome punting problem with a trade that brought Jim Fraser from Kansas City for veteran back Ron Burton. Fraser, unhappy at K.C., was



Seasoned performers like lineman Mike Dukes, no. 54, should help Boston improve in 1966.

the league's top punter two years ago and was delighted with the trade.

Boston lost a bitter struggle with St. Louis for Michigan State's giant middle guard Harold Lucas but the Pats still ended up signing five of their top eight picks. These included tackle John Mangum of Southern Mississippi; tackle Dan Irby of Louisiana Tech; and Southern Miss linebacker Doug Satcher.

While concentrating on linemen, the Patriots did sign another Louisiana Tech athlete, quarterback Billy Laird, a six-foot, 185 pounder who broke Denver's Mickey Slaughter's passing records at that college.

Boston also got the signature of an outstanding small college fullback, Bob Cappadona of Northeastern, a brawny, 235-pound lad who was pursued by the San Francisco 49ers and Winnipeg of the Canadian League.

For several seasons, the Patriots outdistanced other AFL teams whose personnel was considered better. Boston's collapse was a surprise to many last season and the feeling is that if key performers like Larry Eisenhauer, Charley Long, safety Ron Hall, and

Parilli come up with better years, the Pats will be dangerous.

Lost to Miami in the expansion draft were tight safety Ross O'Hanley, guard Billy Neighbors, linebacker Jack Rudolph and second-line quarterback Eddie Wilson. Rudolph was injured in recent seasons and Wilson was used little. The loss of O'Hanley and Neighbors could hurt.

But Holovak has an outstanding young second-year safety prospect in White Graves of Louisiana State and Arrington is expected to step in to Neighbors' offensive guard spot. A knee operation has Tom Hennessey fit and brittle Art Graham should be ready for duty again.

Joe Bellino will get another shot but Holovak isn't counting on him. Mike is high on sophomore flanker Ellis Johnson.

Another big year, reminiscent of 1964, by Parilli and Cappelletti, quick development by the rookies, or a return to form by the veterans could bring Boston a title.

At any rate the Patriots should battle Buffalo for the crown.

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—Bye
Sept. 10—at San Diego
Sept. 18—at Denver
Sept. 25—Kansas City
Oct. 2—New York
Oct. 8—at Buffalo
Oct. 16—Bye
Oct. 23—San Diego
Oct. 30—Oakland
Nov. 6—Denver
Nov. 13—Houston
Nov. 20—at Kansas City
Nov. 27—at Miami
Dec. 4—Buffalo
Dec. 11—at Houston
Dec. 17—at New York

PROBABLE FINISH: 2

NEW YORK JETS



Namath, passing, lived up to expectations.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

The year 1965 had to be, for the New York Jets and probably the American Football League, the year of Joe Namath.

The most publicized football player ever to sign a pro contract and the league's highest-paid bonus boy (\$400,000), Namath, after a slow start, more than fulfilled New York's fondest hopes.

He won the quarterback job from Mike Taliaferro, lost it, but regained it again to close with a rush as the league's third-best passer with 164 completions in 340 attempts and 18 touchdowns. Namath's much-discuss-

ed knee held up well as he easily won "Rookie of the Year" honors.

The former Alabama star's most prolific day came against Houston when he tied a Jet record with four touchdown passes to spark a 41-14 Jet victory. After Broadway Joe took over the quarterback post for keeps, the Jets won four in a row, five of their last eight, for a 5-8-1 second-place finish in the Eastern Division.

Joe closed out the season with a poor day (17-44) but he still threw for two touchdowns to insure the Jets second place with a 14-12 upset over champion Buffalo. And a while later, he guided the league's All-Stars to a triumph over the Bills in Rice Stadium where he was named the most valuable performer.

In addition, Namath gave owner Sonny Werblin and the Jets a million dollars worth of publicity. Joe's ballyhooed signing and colorful personality, not to mention his talent, helped to fill Shea Stadium every time the Jets played there.

But Namath wasn't the only bright spot for the rising Jets. Don Maynard, the talented flanker, had his finest season. The nine-year pro tied a flock of club records and set some others. He was third among AFL receivers with 68 receptions for 1218 yards, tied with Chargers star Lance Alworth for most TD catches (14).

Jim Turner, the club's able place-kicker, set a team mark for scoring with 91 points, including 20 field goals, seven of which were consecutive, tying a league mark.

As a unit, the Jets were only fifth in team rushing but still showed a good one-two backfield punch in fullback Matt Snell and halfback Bill Mathis. Both were in the top seven in ground gaining.

The Jets' punting average was the best in the loop as Curley Johnson had his best season (45.3 average) and boomed one 73 yards against Denver.

Next to Namath, the most talked about rookie was massive (6-4, 253) Verlon Biggs. The defensive end from

Moss Point, Miss. joined with three-year veteran Gerry Philbin to form a strong outside defense for the Jets.

Defensively, the Jets had their finest hour in Boston where the Patriots were held to a meager 28 yards rushing.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The Jets were, in many ways, an untested, inexperienced club and it showed, although on occasions they flashed traces of brilliance. They had trouble getting untracked, lost their first four, went six games without a victory before exploding for a 45-10 drubbing of Denver.

Neither Taliaferro nor Namath could get the team moving and there were problems in the interior lines. The defense gave up 1551 yards on the ground, second-highest in the circuit and there were troubles in the secondary. Opposing passers found the mark for 22 touchdowns, second highest total in the league.

The punt return game was weak (5.7 per return). Only Boston was worse. The linebacking lacked agility, depth and experience with only Larry Grantham and Wahoo McDaniel established performers.

Maynard, while brilliant, was an overworked receiver. Bake Turner and second-year split end George Sauer divided the end chores but neither was able to provide the needed back up assistance to Maynard.

When the Jets fumbled, they fumbled. They had the highest percentage of fumbles lost in the league. They bobbled the ball 27 times and lost 18 of these.

1966 FORECAST

Bustling little Weeb Ewbank begins a new three-year contract as coach of the Jets this season. Ewbank has won the respect of the league for the job he's done for New York. Everything appears to be coming up roses for the Jets, and Werblin is still shelling out money like green stamps.

The Jets are already predicting that one of their two big draft catches, first choice Bill Yearby, a two-way lineman from Michigan, or Oklahoma's linebacker Carl McAdams, number three pick, will be this year's rookie of the year.



Larry Grantham



Don Maynard



Matt Snell

LEADING RUSHER

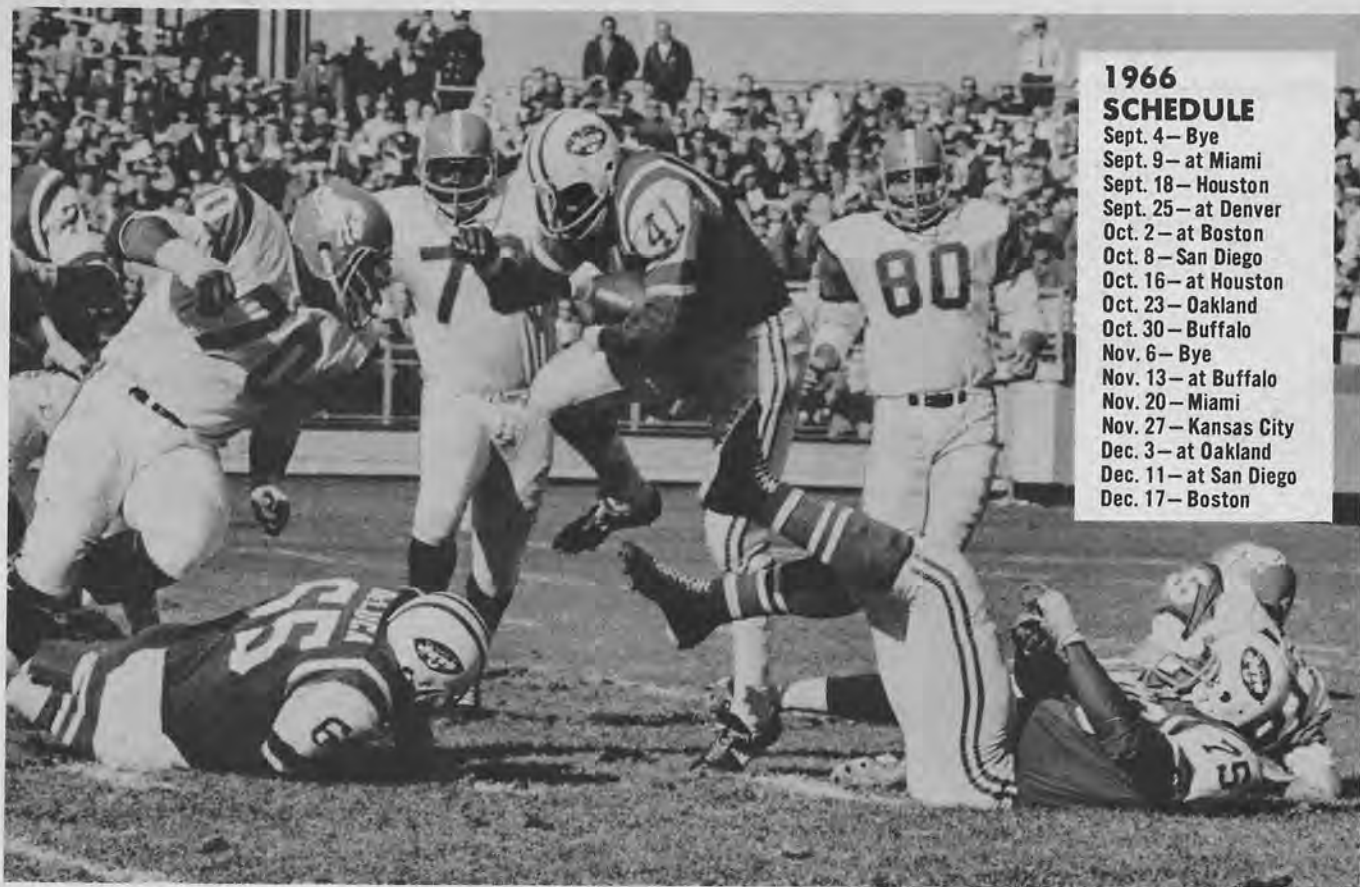
	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Matt Snell	169	763	4.51	44	4

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Joe Namath	340	164	48.2	2220	18	62	15	6.53

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Don Maynard	68	1218	17.9	56	14



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—Bye
Sept. 9—at Miami
Sept. 18—Houston
Sept. 25—at Denver
Oct. 2—at Boston
Oct. 8—San Diego
Oct. 16—at Houston
Oct. 23—Oakland
Oct. 30—Buffalo
Nov. 6—Bye
Nov. 13—at Buffalo
Nov. 20—Miami
Nov. 27—Kansas City
Dec. 3—at Oakland
Dec. 11—at San Diego
Dec. 17—Boston

New York's fine young fullback, Matt Snell, no. 41, slashed defenses for 763 yards rushing last year for 4.51 yards per carry.

The reason for this optimism is that the Jets have had a priority on the award for the past two seasons with Matt Snell winning the honor in 1964 and Joe Namath in 1965.

Both Yearby and McAdams were named to *Time Magazine's* Pro Scouts All-America squad. Yearby, a defensive tackle at Michigan, will get first shot at a tight end position, a post that could stand some bolstering. "Bill has all the equipment to be a fine pro tight end," says Ewbank. "He's got the size (6-3, 230). He's quick, strong and tough and has a great knack for going in the air after the ball . . ."

Yearby was signed for approximately \$200,000 while McAdams got about \$325,000 as the Jets won a big battle with the St. Louis Cardinals, who picked the 220-pound linebacker number one. McAdams was selected the outstanding defensive player in two post-season games—the East-West game and the Hula Bowl contest in which Texas-heralded Tommy Nobis also played.

Ewbank is keeping his fingers crossed about Namath's knee. Reports continually pop up that the gifted passer must undergo further surgery but they are constantly denied. But Namath, true to the pocket-type passer ideal, remains just there, avoids scrambling like any \$400,000 product with a sensitive knee should. Namath should be reaching greatness in another season or two.

The Jets are also high on number four draft choice Jim Waskiewicz of Wichita, a 6-4, 227-pounder they feel can make it as either a center or linebacker. They're counting on him for first-string center at the moment.

New York signed 17 rookies including seven 1965 choices, two 1964 futures and seven free agents. Much is expected from running back Emerson Boozer, 6th-round choice from Maryland State, who averaged 6.4 yards per carry in 97 rushes. He's 5-11, 215 pounds, has dazzling break-away speed as his college TD runs of 96, 80, 77, 75, 70, and 51 yards might indicate.

Others include fourth-round Pete Lammons, a linebacker and tight end from Texas whom Ewbank plans to use either way; free agent Paul Crane, a 6-2, 200-pound Alabama linebacker of whom Ewbank says, "His quickness makes up for his size;" and Jim Jones, a 6-5, 255-pound defensive end from Omaha.

In parting with celebrated John Huarte, the Jets got themselves a fine veteran receiver in Jim Colclough from the Boston Patriots. While not fast, Colclough has great hands for a little fellow and should strengthen the Jets pass receiving department.

If Boozer develops rapidly, the Jets' ground game should be solid with Snell and Mathis. McAdams and Waskiewicz are expected to bolster the Jets' line.

Up front, the Jets have signed Bob

Werl, 6-3, 240-pound Miami offensive guard, and another Miamian, John Matlock, 6-4, 240, who played center, linebacker and tackle in college.

Gone to the Miami Dolphins are Wahoo McDaniel, defensive back Willie West, center Mike Hudock and defensive end Laverne Torczon, but the Jets don't feel they have been hit too severely. Dainard Paulson, second in pass interceptions in the league in 1965 with seven and Ray Abruzzese will hold down the safety spots with four-year man Bill Baird and second-year Cornell Gordon likely cornerbacks. Ed Robinson of Grambling and Richie Higgins of Montclair State, a couple of free agents, are leading candidates for defensive backfield jobs.

The Jets are unquestionably the team of the future in the Eastern Division. They are a young club and the emphasis again will be on youth. As a result they might suffer a little during the year.

But they will be an exciting team and in Namath have the league's best gate attraction. If the defense tightens up and Philbin, Biggs and defensive tackles Paul Rochester and young Jim Harris have big years, the Jets will be smack in the middle of a close Eastern race.

As it stands now, despite many imponderables (including Namath's knee) the Jets will still be a top contender.

PROBABLE FINISH: 3

HOUSTON OILERS



Stumpy Charlie Tolar, hurt last year, hopes to return to running form of previous years.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

The Oilers were gushing all over the place at the outset of the 1965 season. They won five straight exhibition games, their first two league contests, and were 4-3 at the halfway point, including a 19-17 victory over champion Buffalo. That was before the roof fell in.

Ode Burrell, a 6-foot, 185-pound second year half back from Mississippi State was probably the team's brightest performer. He was the only player in the AFL to finish in the top ten in rushing and pass receiving. He was fourth in receptions with 55 for 650 yards and ninth in rushing with 528 yards in 130 carries for a 4.06 average. Burrell was practically THE running game for Houston.

George Blanda, the aged quarterback, led the league in touchdown passes (25), hurling for 2542 yards including a 95-yard paydirt pitch. The 38-year old veteran kicked the Bills into submission Oct. 31 with four field goals and a touchdown toss to Burrell. He also guided the Oilers to a 31-10 early-season rout of Boston.

Willie Frazier established a new

record for AFL tight ends with eight touchdown catches, including two in Houston's 38-36 triumph over Kansas City, a game in which Blanda passed for four scores. Frazier, a sophomore, was named to the AFL All-Star team and his blocking was excellent.

For the fourth time, 255-pound guard Bob Talamini was selected for the "ALL" team, proving again to be one of the finest blockers in the game. Split end Charlie Frazier, who never played college football, continued to show improvement and was the team's third-best receiver.

The Houston defense, a bigger problem than ever, did have some good points. One was rookie linebacker Bobby Maples, who spelled the injured Johnny Baker brilliantly.

And in the deep secondary, cornerback W. K. Hicks, who was signed as a free agent from Texas Southern in 1964, led the league in interceptions with nine. Safety Jim Norton was third in punting in the league with a 44.2 average.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Injuries dealt crippling blows to a team already designated for the bot-

tom of the Eastern Division, and the Oilers ended up last (4-10 for the second year on succession) as predicted, losing their last seven games.

Before the season even started, half-back Sid Blanks, who was 1964 Rookie of the Year runnerup, was lost for the campaign with a knee injury as was first-year flanker, Lawrence Elkins of Baylor, who rewrote Southwest Conference pass receiving records.

Knee problems also troubled the great pass receiver Charlie Hennigan. He dropped from 101 pass receptions in 1964 to 41 and had only one TD catch until he caught two in a 37-26 loss to San Diego as late as Dec. 12.

After linebacker Johnny Baker was injured in the upset over Buffalo, the Oilers didn't record another victory. Injuries also plagued linebackers Danny Brabham and Doug Cline and defensive backs Freddie Glick and Bobby Jancik.

Houston led the league in practically all negative statistics. Opponents swept by Oiler defenders for 5153 yards, an average of 5.45 a clip. The Texans also gave up the most points of any team (429), which befits a cellar dweller. Only the Boston Patriots had a poorer ground game.

The Oilers had a poor rush against the passer and the secondary was riddled for completions. And they lacked beef in the line. Hydrant-shaped Charley Tolar had his worst season and was injured late in the campaign.

Blanda, despite the lack of pass protection, was not the Blanda and had to battle the jeers of Houston fans who constantly called for young second-year quarterback Don Trull. Blanda, as to be expected, threw more passes (442) than any quarterback in the league, and while he led the loop in completions, he also led in passes intercepted with 30.

The Oilers suffered from fourth-period collapses. Rivals rolled up a total of 161 points in the final quarter as the defenses faltered and in one game Kansas City racked up a total of 52 points.

Houston also suffered from a morale problem, particularly among veteran players, who possibly remembered the glorious title days with the Oilers. By season's end Blanda was feuding with Coach Bones Taylor, and despite an announced new contract for Taylor, it was Taylor who went, and Blanda who remained in Houston.



Willie Frazier



Don Trull



Don Floyd

		LEADING RUSHER							
		Att.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	TD			
Ode Burrell		130	528	4.06	63	3			
		LEADING PASSER							
		Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
George Blanda		442	186	42.1	2542	20	95	30	5.75
		LEADING RECEIVER							
		No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD			
Ode Burrell		55	650	11.8	52	4			

Houston has signaled a new era for 1966 with the accent on youth. It has brought back Wally Lemm as its coach. Lemm, who parted with the NFL St. Louis Cardinals at the close of last season, thus becomes the sixth Oiler coach in seven years, and returns to the scene of his greatest triumphs.

It was Lemm who guided the Oilers to 10 straight wins and their second straight AFL championship in 1961. Wally has equipped himself with one of the largest coaching staffs in the league and a good one. He's added Hugh Devore from Notre Dame as an aide as well as F. A. Dry from the University of Tulsa, Wayne Robinson, a defensive coach at Iowa, and retired Oiler defensive tackle Bud McFadin. Lemm retained backfield assistant Walt Schlinkman.

The Oilers will be shooting with youth again, especially up front. President Bud Adams, who never worries about spending money, lost number one choice Tommy Nobis of Texas to Atlanta and Texas Tech's Donny Anderson to Green Bay (despite an alleged \$800,000 Houston offer), but was able to sign 10 of the club's 20 1966 choices, 12 free agents and two red-shirts.

Houston got what it was after in big linemen, shelling out upwards of one million dollars for defensive tackle George Rice (6-3, 265) of Louisiana State, a third-round choice; and 6-5, 255-pound offensive tackle Glen Ray Hines and linebacker Jim Williams, both of Arkansas. The Oilers just lost out on offensive tackle Dave McCormick of Louisiana State, a Patriots future, who signed with San Francisco.

The Oilers also signed fourth-round selection George Allen, an offensive tackle (6-7, 255) from West Texas State, and redshirt Len Sears, also an offensive tackle (6-5, 235) from South Carolina. The management is hopeful that this crew will give Houston the size it needs.

The defense may have gotten the boost with the signing of Pat Holmes, a two-time All-Pro in Canada, who played out his option there. A former Texas Tech star he is 6-7 and weighs 270 and is expected to see a lot of service at defensive tackle and assist other young defensive standouts, Scott Appleton, Jim Hayes, Don Floyd, George Kinney and tough Gary Cutsinger.

Houston will have a sound Blanks to join Burrell and Tolar in the backfield and Lemm is high on Hoyle Granger of Mississippi State, a 228-pound fullback, who could take Tolar's post from him. If Granger approaches Burrell, that other Mississippi Stater, things will be hopping.

The Oilers also acquired former Kansas City linebacker Ronnie Cave-ness in a deal with Miami and this is expected to help the uncertain line-backing especially since Johnny Baker

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3—Denver
Sept. 10—Oakland
Sept. 18—at New York
Sept. 25—at Buffalo
Oct. 2—at Denver
Oct. 9—Bye
Oct. 16—New York
Oct. 23—Miami
Oct. 30—at Kansas City
Nov. 6—at Oakland
Nov. 13—at Boston
Nov. 20—Buffalo
Nov. 27—Bye
Dec. 4—San Diego
Dec. 11—Boston
Dec. 18—at Miami

Stellar receiver Charlie Hennigan, no. 87, hopes he can recover from injury to his knee.

is expected to be right again.

If Lawrence Elkins and Charlie Hennigan respond and can shake off knee troubles (both underwent surgery), the Oilers could boast the best receivers in the league with Burrell, the Frazier boys and tight end Bob McLeod.

This could be the year that Houston will write finis to Blanda, who, if he isn't traded, will be in a hot battle for quarterback with the improving Trull and Jacky Lee, who is back from Denver after a two-year loan. Lemm is expected to give Trull a full test.

Houston wasn't hurt badly in the Miami expansion draft. It lost offensive tackles Norm Evans and Maxie Williams, center Tom Goode, and full back Jack Spikes—none of whom figured too prominently in the Houston future.

The offensive line should be stronger if centers Wayne Frazier and John Frongillo, hampered by injuries in '65, stay well and veterans Rich Michael, Walt Tuggs, Sonny Bishop and Bob Talamini play up to expectation. Hines, the Arkansas All-

America, Allen, Sears, and 245-pound guard Wilbur Aylor are expected to help tremendously.

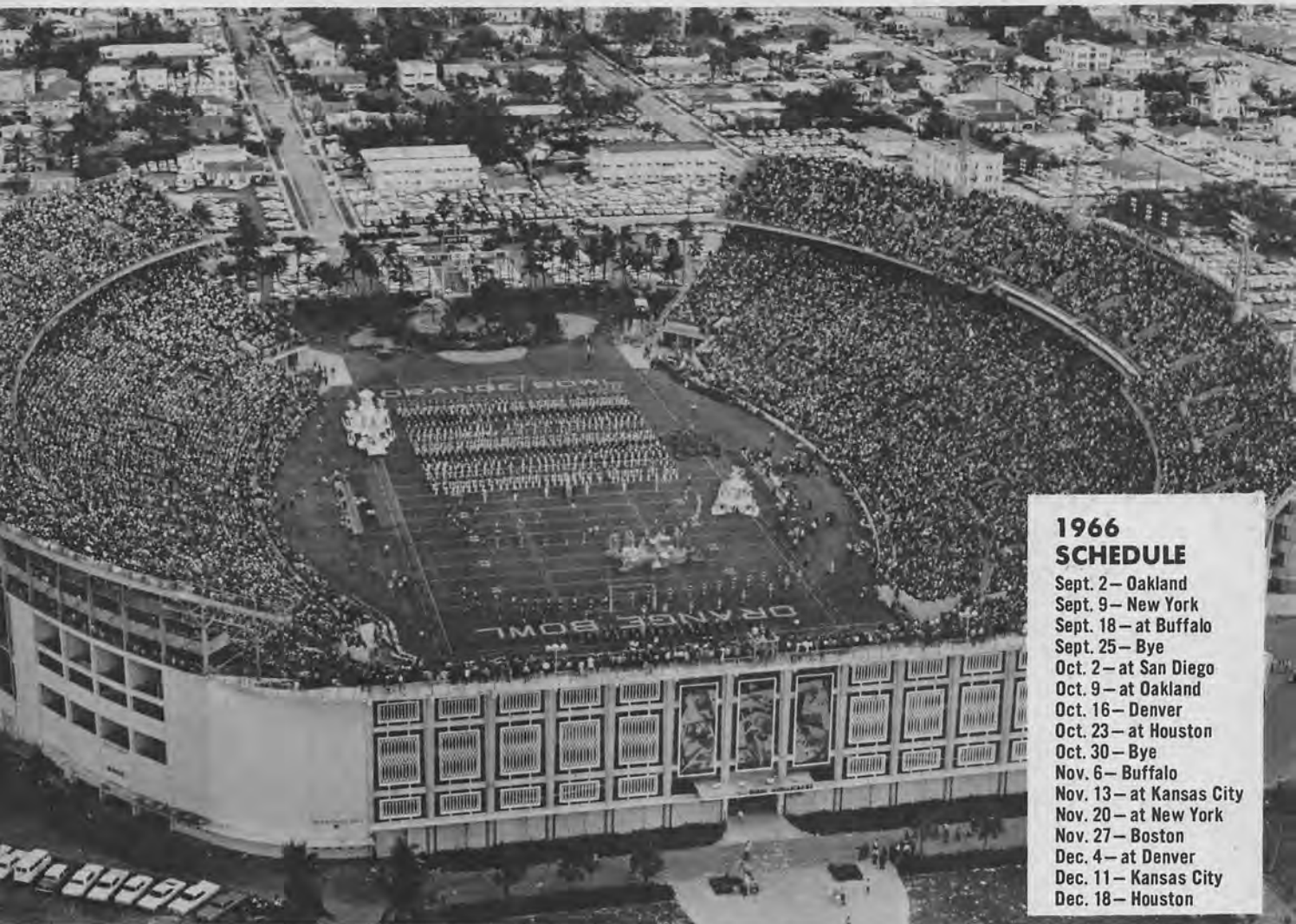
Oiler forces also expect rookie defensive end Willie Jones of Kansas State to bolster that position.

Key to the Oiler success will be the defense. If the young linemen come through, and the team stays healthy, it could portend a return to the glory days in this fantastically growing city. The Oilers acquired San Diego giants Ernie Ladd and Earl Faison via a trade but Joe Foss, then commissioner of the AFL, cancelled this deal because of statements in the press by Adams. If the deal ever materializes again before the season starts, it could throw a completely different light on the Houston '66 forecast. But as it stands now, the Oilers, with Lemm back again and operating under a dynamic new general manager, Don Klosterman, appear to be on the move.

The Oilers certainly will be better, but they may be a year away.

PROBABLE FINISH: 4

MIAMI DOLPHINS



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2—Oakland
Sept. 9—New York
Sept. 18—at Buffalo
Sept. 25—Bye
Oct. 2—at San Diego
Oct. 9—at Oakland
Oct. 16—Denver
Oct. 23—at Houston
Oct. 30—Bye
Nov. 6—Buffalo
Nov. 13—at Kansas City
Nov. 20—at New York
Nov. 27—Boston
Dec. 4—at Denver
Dec. 11—Kansas City
Dec. 18—Houston

The Miami Dolphins, the ninth and newest franchise in the AFL, will play their home games in Miami's Orange Bowl (capacity: 70,000).

THE FRANCHISE

When the man urged, "Come on down," the American Football League did just that and expanded to sunny Miami—for a price of \$7.5 million.

The Miami Dolphins thus become the ninth AFL franchise as the league attempts to put over professional football in an area popularized by horse racing and dog tracks. To date, the season ticket response has been encouraging.

Show biz whiz Danny Thomas is co-owner and majority stockholder; Minneapolis attorney and sportsman Joe Robbie is club president; and Joe Thomas, who helped stock the fledgling NFL Minnesota Vikings, is director of player personnel.

It was Joe Thomas who culled 31 AFL veterans from other squads under the expansion plan and signed 11 of the team's top 20 draft choices. The Dolphins, under a generous league stocking, came up with a fine potential.

Miami chose for its coach a 29-year

veteran of the football wars. George Wilson coached the Detroit Lions from 1957 to 1964, winning the championship his first season. He was an assistant with the Washington Redskins in 1965.

Wilson, 51, has surrounded himself with the largest coaching staff in pro football with no less than six assistants. They are massive defensive line coach Les Bingaman, 40, a former Lion standout and aide to Wilson at Detroit; pass receiver tutor Ralph Hawkins, 30, a former Maryland star and an assistant at Kentucky since 1962; former Boston College head coach and Pittsburgh Steeler aide, Ernie Hefferle, who will direct the offensive line; offensive backfield coach John Idzik, a Tulane assistant; Tom Keane, a backfield assistant with the Steelers; and retired Washington Redskin linebacker Bob Pellegrini, 32.

Seldom has a new football entry gone to town as quickly as the Miami group did in getting players. At this writing,

the Dolphins have 109 players under contract, including 67 free agents. The club's publicity director is a man long associated with winners, Charlie Callahan, who resigned his long-time post at Notre Dame to come south.

The Dolphins will play their home games at Miami's famous Orange Bowl.

STRENGTHS

From the liberal AFL player pool, the Dolphins picked up 19 former starters. Chief among these are veteran San Diego tight end Dave Kocourek, Buffalo split end Bo Roberson, fullback Billy Joe of Buffalo, and defensive end Mel Branch and flanker Frank Jackson of Kansas City.

The Dolphins will be wealthy with pass receivers. Complementing Kocourek, Roberson and Jackson, will be the most-talked-about college pass-catcher of 1965, Howard Twilley of Tulsa, whom Mike Holovak of the Boston

Patriots hailed as one of the greatest receivers he's ever seen.

Twilley, while only 5-10½ and 180 pounds, set eight NCAA pass-catching records and runs deceptive pass patterns. He jumps with the agility of a receiver several inches taller.

Another touted rookie is flanker John Roderick of Southern Methodist. Roderick, a 9.3 sprinter for the 100, might be the fastest player in the league. Joe Thomas predicts Roderick will be "pro football's next Lance Alworth."

A third outstanding draft choice is Tennessee linebacker Frank Emanuel, a 225-pound All-America from Newport News, Va. He led the Volunteers to a 7-1-2 season and against Kentucky was credited with 17 tackles and nine assists.

Miami is the only pro team to have three players (Emanuel, Twilley and Roderick) on the Pro Scouts' All-America squad.

But Miami's greatest catch could be its number two choice, quarterback Rick Norton, the Kentucky All-America who hit on 113 of 214 pass attempts for 1823 yards and 11 touchdowns last fall. He stays in the pocket and played in a pro-type offense at Kentucky.

The Dolphins feel it may take a season or two for Norton to blossom to greatness, so they acquired two experienced quarterbacks from league rivals. They were lanky Dick Wood, who started occasionally for the Oakland Raiders last year after previous play with the New York Jets, and Eddie Wilson, an intelligent four-year veteran, who had the misfortune to back up first Len Dawson at Kansas City and then Babe Parilli at Boston last season. Wilson probably will get first crack at the quarterback post.

Up front, the Dolphins have 1964 All-Star guard, Billy Neighbors from the Patriots and Ken Rice of Oakland, an All-Star for Buffalo in his 1961 rookie season. Offensive tackles Ernie Park, Norm Evans of Houston and Jim Davidson, injured with Buffalo in his rookie season last year, figure to be a big help.

For centers, Miami selected Tom Goode of Houston and Mike Hudock of the New York Jets. Tom Gallagher, a 260-pounder from Indiana, will contest with the two veterans.

The Dolphins were able to obtain sufficient strength in the secondary in cornerbacks Willie West of New York; Dick Westmoreland and Jim Warren of San Diego; and safeties John McGeever of Denver and Ross O'Hanley of Boston.

High hopes also are held for defensive backs Bobby Petrella of Tennessee, Mike Buckner of Northwestern, Dave Ferguson of Rice and Richie Martha of West Virginia, whose brother Paul plays with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Other rookie hopefuls include Sam Price, (5-11, 215) who played halfback with Jim Grabowski at Illinois. The Dolphins lost number one choice Grabowski to Green Bay but plan to move

Price to fullback.

WEAKNESSES

Miami failed to secure a fast running back in the expansion draft. Fullbacks Billy Joe, troubled by bunions and a disappointment at Buffalo, and Jack Spikes, injury plagued during his pro career, have size but lack speed. Gene Mingo of Oakland is the lone half-back obtained in the stocking.

Nor did the Dolphins emerge very strong in linebacking selections. Jack Rudolph battled injuries for three seasons with the Patriots and lost his starting corner linebacker post last fall. Tom Erlandson broke an arm two seasons ago with Denver. Wahoo McDaniels, while a colorful performer for the Jets, did not have an outstanding year in 1965. The Dolphins gave up Ronnie Caveness, whom they got from K.C., in a trade with Houston for a future player.

The Dolphins might have a kicking problem. Mingo had the lowest AFL field goal percentage in 1965. Doug Moreau, a 20-year old split end from LSU, and Greg Mather, the tight end from Navy, who has just completed his military obligations, will get cracks at the toe work. Miami must also develop a good punter.

1966 FORECAST

George Wilson says of the future: "I like our defensive backs and we have receivers with good speed and good throwers." Commenting on the comparison between Miami and the NFL's Atlanta entry, he said, "I wish we were playing them in all 14 games. I'm sure the Dolphins would win more than their share."

The Dolphins should win their share of games in their first year of play. If the rookies develop rapidly, the team could be the surprise of the 1966 season. Branch, Ed Cooke of Denver and Lavern Torczon of New York give them strength at defensive end, and they have good size at the defensive tackles with Alphonse Dotson (Kansas City, 6-5, 255); Rich Zeher (Oakland, 6-2, 240); Tom Nomina (Denver, 6-5, 270) and Howard Simpson (Buffalo, 6-5, 250).

Fifth draft choice Grady Bolton, 6-2, 240, from Mississippi State and Jerry Oliver, 6-6, 285, from Southwest Texas, are two other defensive tackles rated highly.

In George Wilson, the Dolphins have one of the most knowledgeable football minds in the game. Miami should feature an exciting team, particularly in its passing game. But it's too early in this, the embryonic stage, to expect the Dolphins to be a contender.

After a year of togetherness, and the expected development of Norton, Twilley and the rest of this outstanding rookie crop, the Dolphins could be a team to watch in 1967.

PROBABLE FINISH: 5



Rick Norton



Eddie Wilson



Howard Twilley



John Roderick



Dave Kocourek



Billy Joe



Wahoo McDaniel



Billy Neighbors



Bo Roberson



Frank Jackson

afl-west

By Lou Connolley

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS



Lance Alworth, 19, the most dangerous deep receiver in the AFL, scored 14 TDs in 1965.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

San Diego led the AFL in just about everything but home attendance in 1965 and, at that, set a record with 202,402 for its seven games at Balboa Stadium.

It was another big year in the city of palm trees and stucco. The 1965 Chargers captured their fifth Western Division crown in six years, third in succession, finishing 9-2-3. Voters approved a new \$27 million stadium, and everything was just peachy until the 23-0 humiliation by Buffalo before the home folks in the AFL title game.

"Player of the Year" Paul Lowe gained 1121 yards to break the season mark recorded by Oakland's Clem Daniels in 1963. The high-stepping halfback recovered from a 1964 leg injury, which reduced his output to 513 yards, to become the all-time leader in league rushing.

A healthy Lance Alworth caught 69 passes for 1,602 yards, second highest in AFL history, and 14 touchdowns. Oft-criticized John Hadl, finally established himself as the number one quarterback and led the league in passing. The ex-Kansas athlete threw for 20

touchdowns and 2798 yards as he directed the offense, which topped both divisions in rushing and passing and most points (340).

The Chargers again boasted the best talent in the league. While star fullback Keith Lincoln missed nearly half the season because of injuries, Gene Foster, a former Arizona State star, stepped in and picked up 469 yards, wound up second to Lowe in rushing and 11th in the loop. And former San Diego State fullback Jim Allison also showed some fine running.

Behemoths Ernie Lad, the 321-pound defensive tackle and Earl Faison, the 280-pound defensive end, once again spearheaded the fearsome defense, which was the AFL's best, limiting opponents to 1094 yards on the ground.

Both Ladd and Faison may not be playing for the Chargers this year and would have been in Houston but a trade was voided. Nevertheless, it didn't stop Coach Sid Gillman from calling Ladd's game in a 10-10 tie with Kansas City last Sept. 26 the "greatest he's ever played."

Ladd made 10 unassisted tackles and led the charge that dumped Chiefs quar-

terback Len Dawson for losses six times totaling 57 yards. Shocked K.C. Coach Hank Stram admitted afterward, "We never blocked Ladd all day."

The Chargers gave their mightiest demonstration early in the season when they thrashed the champion Bills, 34-3, in Buffalo with Hadl putting on a dazzling display. But the Bills came back to tie the Chargers 20-20 in San Diego on Thanksgiving Day.

Mailman Herb Travenio became the team's full-time kicking specialist and finished third in league scoring with 40 conversions in 40 tries and 18 of 30 field goal tries for 94 points.

San Diego placed five men on the Associated Press' All-Star team—Ladd, Faison, Alworth, Lowe and interior fixture Ron Mix. Safety Bud Whitehead was the league's second-best at interceptions with seven and Leslie "Speedy" Duncan topped the loop in punt returns with 464 yards (a 15.5 average) and two touchdowns.

Statistically and talent-wise, the Chargers were in a class by themselves.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

If the Chargers had a weakness last year, it was an occasional letdown on offense when they faced a tough defensive team. San Diego is also developing a proclivity to sputter during a key game.

In two meetings with defensive-minded Kansas City, the Chargers could score only 17 points. In the first game, the Chiefs held S.D. to a 10-10 tie and in the return game, K.C. bopped the Chargers 31-7 as the defense and offense crumbled.

Against Boston at Fenway Park, the Chargers could manage only a 13-13 tie and were lucky at that because the Patriots couldn't put the ball across three times within the S.D. 20-yard line. As was the case against Kansas City, the Chargers had trouble solving a "stacked" Patriots defense.

When the Chargers hosted the Patriots Oct. 31 at Balboa Stadium before their largest crowd (33,366), they were trampled (22-6) by Boston's reputable defense. This was two days before the voters were to approve the new stadium and decide whether the Chargers were to remain in San Diego.

Although a 6-1/2-point favorite to whip the injury-riddled Bills in the title game, the Chargers again came



Ron Mix



Keith Lincoln



John Hadl

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Paul Lowe	222	1121	5.05	59	7

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
John Hadl	348	174	50.0	2798	20	85	21	8.04

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Lance Alworth	69	1602	23.2	85	14



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—Buffalo
Sept. 10—Boston
Sept. 18—Bye
Sept. 25—at Oakland
Oct. 2—Miami
Oct. 8—at New York
Oct. 16—at Buffalo
Oct. 23—at Boston
Oct. 30—Denver
Nov. 6—at Kansas City
Nov. 13—Oakland
Nov. 20—Bye
Nov. 27—at Denver
Dec. 4—at Houston
Dec. 11—New York
Dec. 18—Kansas City

San Diego's talented Paul Lowe, no. 23, a speedy, shifty ballcarrier, raced for 1121 yards last year for a single-season AFL record.

up with a bad day.

San Diego also was the most heavily penalized team in the league with 929 yards marked off and the club suffered somewhat from inferior punting. Hadl and Rick Redman, who shared the booting, rated at the bottom of the league in this department. Twenty-one of Hadl's passes were intercepted.

1966 FORECAST

The Chargers came out disastrously in signing draft choices, landing only one of their top 10 selections, and they were probably hit harder than any other club in the Miami expansion draft, losing four key men.

But Sid Gillman apparently isn't worried. "A professional football team is like my wife's wardrobe. It is subject to constant change," philosophized the glib Charger boss. "We'll have to make some adjustments this season, but I'm not worried. We've lost players and coaches before, but we haven't stopped winning and don't intend to stop now."

The coach Gillman was alluding to was defensive backfield aide Chuck Noll who resigned to become a defensive assistant for the Baltimore Colts of the NFL.

San Diego also faces the possibility of playing without both Ladd and Faison, who despite the cancelled trade with Houston, reportedly have played out their options and won't be back.

The Chargers lost their first college choice, defensive lineman Don Davis of Los Angeles State to the New York Giants; No. 2 pick, Nick Rassas, Notre Dame defensive back, to the Atlanta Falcons and third-round pick Milt Morin, a Massachusetts end, to Cleve-

land. They did sign their 10th selection, Danny Pride, a Tennessee A & I linebacker.

Tight end Kocourek, who never missed a game for the Chargers in six years but who was in Gillman's doghouse, went to Miami but Jacque MacKinnon, a 6-foot-4, 250-pound five-year veteran and popular with the fans, will move in to Kocourek's post.

Also gone to the Dolphins is valuable guard Ernie Park. His slot will be open to sophomores John Farris and Ed Mitchell or four-year vet Pat Shea. But Walt Sweeney, one of the league's top guards, is back at the other guard position.

Two cornerbacks, Jim Warren and Dick Westmoreland, also were sent to Miami. Battling for the vacancy will be seven-year Charger Dick Harris, Miller Farr and Bob Stiles of UCLA, whose defensive play carried the Uclans to a 14-12 upset over Michigan State in the Rose Bowl. The other cornerback post belongs to Duncan.

Kenny Graham and Whitehead give the Chargers strength at safety while the linebacking is strong with Co-Capt. and middleman Chuck Allen, second-team all-selection Frank Buncom, and Dick Degan and Rick Redman, two 1965 standouts.

Should Ladd and Faison bow out, Gillman will move in highly rated Steve DeLong and Howard Kindig to go with solid Bob Petrich and George Gross. The center position is in good hands with Sam Gruneisen.

Gillman has few worries about receivers. "Bambi" Alworth is considered the best flanker in either league and split end Don Norton is the club's all-

time leading pass snagger. Norton might receive some competition from Gary Garrison of San Diego State, who was the No. 1 future in 1964 and is rated a can't-miss prospect.

Lincoln is a question mark... Despite limited service, the versatile back ran for three touchdowns last year, caught four passes for scores and passed for another, but he's been riddled with injuries, which have discouraged him. The Chargers need him as a triple threat.

Despite his 1965 season, Hadl still hasn't convinced everyone he's the team's permanent quarterback, although he frankly answers his critics with the retort, "I move the ball." Hadl has an ulcer, which bothered him last season, and faces a gutsy challenge from Florida State's Steve Tensi, who was on the taxi squad last year, and Don Breaux, whom Gillman sometimes shifted to when the fans got on Hadl.

The Chargers face serious obstacles in their bid to make it four titles in a row in the West. Oakland and Kansas City are tougher and the division will be better balanced. Says Gillman, "Almost every club now has the talent and experience to beat anyone else. It's going to be an interesting year."

San Diego may lose a couple of more games this year and much will rest on the status of Ladd and Faison. But the Chargers, now committed to remain in their present home, still have an awful lot of talent, and will be looking forward to moving into their new 50,000-seat Stadium in Mission Valley in 1967 as champions.

PROBABLE FINISH: 1

OAKLAND RAIDERS



Clem Daniels, running, finished third in AFL rushing with 884 yards for a 4.04 average.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Oakland, once the ragamuffin of the American Football League, carved another niche for itself in 1965 as the Western Division's team of the future.

The Silver and Black, which featured four to six rookies in the starting lineup, made another fine stretch run, winning three of its final four games to wind up second (8-5-1) to the mighty Chargers.

That magnificent workhorse Clem Daniels ranked third in individual rushing with 884 yards in 219 carries. Only Denver's Cookie Gilchrist carried the ball more. Halfback Daniels, a 218-pounder, topped his 1964 rushing output and was again an effective pass receiver with 36 catches for 568 yards.

Veteran Art Powell again demonstrated that he is still one of the loop's best receivers. He was fifth in the final statistics with 52 receptions for 800 yards and 12 touchdowns, right behind Chargers' Lance Alworth and Jets' Don Maynard, who shared TD honors with 14 apiece.

The Raiders dealt Bo Roberson to

Buffalo but it was mainly to make room for rookie flanker Fred Biletnikoff of Florida State. Biletnikoff started seven games, finished third in team receptions to Powell and Daniels with 24 catches for 331 yards.

Oakland's defense, riddled for 350 points in 1964, third worst in the league, improved notably. Only division titlists, San Diego and Buffalo, yielded fewer points than the Raiders 239 in 14 games.

Much of the improvement can be attributed to a massive, mobile front four, rapidly becoming one of the most respected in the league. Defensive ends Ben Davidson (6-7, 265) and Ike Lassiter (6-5, 270) and tackles Dan Birdwell (6-4, 250) and Dave Costa (6-1, 250) were the bulwarks.

Davidson, starting his third season with the Raiders, appears headed for stardom while Lassiter, cut by the Denver Broncos, proved to be the most pleasant surprise.

Dave Grayson, who came to the Raiders in exchange for Fred Williamson, turned out to be an All-League cornerback. Perennial All-Star center

Jim Otto was the Raiders other All-League choice.

Boy wonder Coach-General Manager Al Davis had planned a rotation of three quarterbacks but injuries spoiled this strategy. Cotton Davidson threw only one pass all season, that on a botched field goal attempt in Boston. Elongated Dick Wood and Tom Flores did most of the quarterbacking with Flores closing fast in the Raiders late season bid.

Another Otto, this one Gus Otto, a 220-pounder from Missouri, established himself as a solid linebacker in his rookie season while defensive back Kent McCloughan of Nebraska also was a first-year standout. Otto picked up three interceptions, two for touchdowns.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The most glaring weakness of the Raiders was the quarterback slot. Oakland ranked at the bottom of the league in team passing, throwing 431 times for 195 completions and 2460 yards. (It also had the fewest interceptions recorded against its passers).

Cotton Davidson suffered a shoulder separation in training camp which finished him for the year. Dropback passer Flores did throw 14 touchdown passes with 133 completions in 269 attempts but had 11 interceptions and wasn't too consistent. The lanky Wood shone in spots but interceptions also plagued him at the wrong time.

Al Miller is an excellent blocking back but his balltoting from the full-back post wasn't sufficient to make him a dual threat with the tireless Daniels. The Raiders opened the season with a smashing 37-10 conquest of touted Kansas City, but the following week against arch-rival San Diego, the Raiders could muster only 36 yards on the ground against Ladd, Faison and Co. and lost 17-6.

Like most teams, the Raiders had their troubles scoring against the league's best defenses, Buffalo and San Diego. They totaled only 20 points in two losses to the Chargers and 26 against the Bills. The Raiders finished sixth in team scoring.

Departure of Roberson put a further burden on the passing game as young Biletnikoff learned the game and Billy Cannon tried a conversion to tightend.

The Raiders also had a kicking problem. Mike Mercer was seventh in



Billy Cannon

Cotton Davidson



Jim Otto

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Clem Daniels	219	884	4.04	57	5

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Tom Flores	269	122	45.3	1593	14	69	11	5.92

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Art Powell	52	800	15.4	66	12

punting and he and Gene Mingo alternated on field-goal chores.

1966 FORECAST

The Raiders will have a new home for the 1966 season, and they will have a new coach.

The league's fastest-growing entry moves into its 53,000-seat Oakland-Alameda County Stadium after four years of play in a high school stadium seating only 21,000.

But lost is dynamic General Manager-Coach, Al Davis, who succeeded Joe Foss as AFL commissioner. Davis will be succeeded in the coaching role by offensive backfield coach John Rauch, a one-time Philadelphia Eagles quarterback, who is expected to continue in the Davis tradition. Publicist Gordon "Scotty" Stirling is the new general manager.

The Raiders collared nine of their first 11 draft choices, including four of their five top picks. These include Kentucky's brilliant halfback Rodger Bird, number one choice, who will be tried as a defensive back; Bucknell tight end Tom Mitchell, a third-round selection; Tulsa's 245-pound guard Dick Tyson and Miami halfback Pete Banaszak, a 200-pounder who could give Oakland's running attack the combined thrust it needs.

Oakland parted with veteran middle linebacker Archie Matsos in an off-season trade with Denver for 6-1, 220-pound Hewitt Dixon, a tight end for three seasons, but a lad the management thinks might make an outstanding fullback.

Three redshirts could help in Oakland's drive for more size and speed up front. They are 6-5, 245-pound tackle Jim Harvey of Mississippi, defensive end Greg Kent (6-6, 275) of Utah, and Dave Daniels of Florida A & M (6-3, 245).

The Raiders shot for a title rests largely on the quarterback post. The club has been trying to land Daryle Lamonica of Buffalo and might succeed yet by the time the season opens. They could have him if a deal involving Art Powell goes through. The Bills would like Powell in case Elbert Dubenion doesn't recover sufficiently from the injury which shelved him last season.

Without an added quarterback, Oakland appears in trouble. Davidson is 34 and doctors still aren't sure how effective he will be this year. Wood went to Miami in the expansion draft which cost Oakland dearly, and Flores cannot be expected to make the Raiders titlists going the route alone.

The only other quarterback on the Oakland roster is Charlie Green, a little All-America from Wittenberg College in 1964, whom the Boston Patriots released after acquiring the Jets John Huarte.

Also lost in the expansion draft were first-string offensive guard Ken Rice, placekicker Gene Mingo and a good



Classy Art Powell, no. 84, caught 52 passes for 800 yards and 12 touchdowns last year.

defensive lineman prospect Rich Zecher.

The Raiders should be strong in the offensive line. Joining Double O, Jim Otto will be three-time All-star guard Wayne Hawkins and two promising rookie holdovers tackles, Bob Svihus of USC and Harry Schuh of Memphis State, both of whom performed well last year. Veterans Bob Mischak, Marv Marinovich and George Flint will battle for Rice's position.

The Silver and Black also acquired defensive tackle Tom Keating from Buffalo as part of the Roberson deal. The linebacking corps is set with John Williamson, Gus Otto, Bill Budness and Dan Connors returning abetted by Dick Hermann, a specialist team member in '65 and No. 9 draft choice Cliff Kinney of San Diego State.

The Raiders appear to have strength-

ened themselves in the secondary. In addition to Bird, they signed Louisiana State's Joe Labruzzo and '65 rookie Larry Todd will be better. Todd is also a fine kickoff return man. Veterans Warren Powers and Howie Williams and Claude Gibson will be the safety men.

Roger Hagberg, the ex-Minnesota star, showed progress at fullback last season and the Raiders are counting on him again this fall.

In essence, however, Oakland's chances of reaching the summit this season depend on the quarterback situation. If Davidson could come back or if the Raiders find themselves another dependable passer, it could be a big year in the Bay area.

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2—at Miami
Sept. 10—at Houston
Sept. 18—Kansas City
Sept. 25—San Diego
Oct. 2—Bye
Oct. 9—Miami
Oct. 16—at Kansas City
Oct. 23—at New York
Oct. 30—at Boston
Nov. 6—Houston
Nov. 13—at San Diego
Nov. 20—at Denver
Nov. 24—Buffalo
Dec. 3—New York
Dec. 11—Denver
Dec. 18—Bye

PROBABLE FINISH: 2



GALE SAYERS: HOW THEY PLAN TO STOP HIM

By Cooper Rollow

Who's going to stop Gale Sayers? Can other National Football League clubs prevent the versatile young Chicago Bear star from making a mockery of their defensive efforts this year as he did last fall? Is there really any defense against Sayers' breath-taking speed and change of pace?

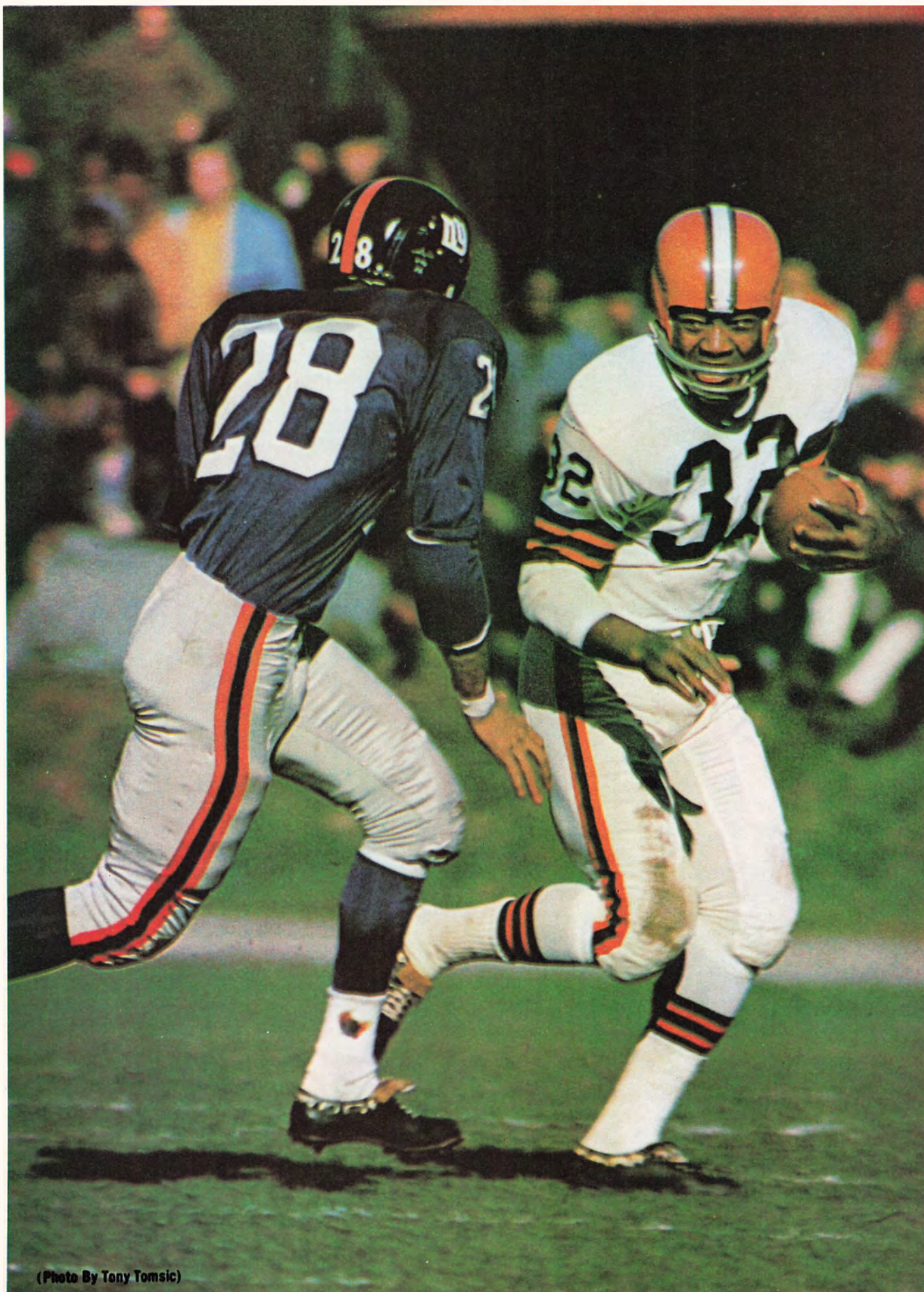
To get an answer to these questions, we interviewed rival N.F.L. coaches and players who must find some way to contain the Kansas Comet this fall or else, most experts feel, sit back and watch Sayers lead the Bears to the Western Conference championship.

Sayers was rookie-of-the-year, a unanimous all-pro,
(continued on page 76)

NFL coaches are desperately studying ways to keep the Bears' flash from another season like '65. One former coach would double-team Sayers, and on third down "would assign someone to race him up to the hot-dog stand if necessary."



(Photo By Dave Maenza)



(Photo By Tony Tomsic)



"I DON'T WANT TO BE A WALKING MESS OF SCARS"

By Brad Saunders

That's what Cleveland's superstar fullback Jim Brown said last spring when he insisted he would quit after the '66 season. He wants to be a movie actor and a businessman, but can he walk away from a sport he still towers over?

October 13, 1963. This would be a tough one, this ballgame between the Cleveland Browns and the New York Giants. The Brownies had polished off the first four rivals on their schedule, and now they marched into New York's Yankee Stadium eager for a shot at the reigning Eastern champions. The Browns and Giants were old and bitter enemies, and from the opening whistle you could see they were throwing something extra into their vicious exchanges.

The Giants pinned their hopes on the passing of superstar Y.A. Tittle, and they knew they had to stop the running of Cleveland's superstar fullback Jim Brown. So after New York got off to a 7-0 lead, the Giants dug in and waited for Brown to come at them.

And, sure enough, Jimmy did. Bulling, squirming, dodging, sprinting, the 228-pound speedster ran the ball at the Giants. Cleveland moved 79 yards with Brown carrying the ball over from the one. During the drive, the pent-up Giants had hit Jimmy four or five times around the eyes.

Much later, he confided to a reporter, "I felt they were trying to get me out. Everything was in a state of

blurriness." But while the game was on, Jim Brown said nothing. What he proceeded to do spoke eloquently enough.

He caught a Frank Ryan screen pass and slithered 72 yards through a field of Giants to get the Browns a touchdown. He scored again on a 32-yard run. With Cleveland leading 28-24 in the fourth quarter, Brown and halfback Ernie Green teamed up to kill the clock and the Giants. They carried the ball for much of the time as Cleveland went 80 yards to a clinching touchdown. Brown had scored three times and had gained 120 yards. When it was over, he slumped on a bench in the lockerroom and admitted, "I still can't see good. I'm going to check with a doctor. But if you put it in the paper, I'll deny it."

Was Brown satisfied with his performance? "Considering what the Giants were trying to do," he said, "I'm proud of it."

That was Jim Brown, gifted with unmatched physical skills and driven by deep-seated pride. No pain, no challenge could make him quit.



Brown coach Collier, left, says Jimmy would make a good coach because of his analytical mind.

April 12, 1966. The same Jimmy Brown was making an announcement from London, England, where he was acting in a movie, *The Dirty Dozen*. Brown was speaking, but the words seemed out of character. Brown said, yes, he was quitting pro football after the '66 season—just the way he had said he would. "I'm getting older," he said, "and when I'm through running, I don't want to be a walking mess of scars."

Jim Brown, 30 and still apparently robust, would walk away from the game he has towered over. He had gained more in a single season (1863 yards in '63) and more in his nine-year career (12,312 yards) than any other runner in history and it's difficult to conceive of anyone ever being better.

His quitting would be a serious loss to football. Too, it just wouldn't be Jim Brown, for he's a guy who's played this violent game with hard-hitting verve and accepted his lumps without complaint. The tougher the challenge, the more inspired he would play. The great ones never seem willing to retire. Look at Joe DiMaggio in baseball, struggling to play after his legs and his arm were giving way. Look at Mickey Mantle, defying crippled legs and a dead throwing arm. Can Jimmy Brown really give up football?

His reasons for quitting are logical (logically, Mantle should have retired by now). Jim has taken a mauling down through the years. He was always the guy Cleveland relied on to get the tough yards against stacked defenses.

Lots of teams defended him the way the Giants did. New York used to assign middle linebacker Sam Huff to hit Brown on every play regardless of whether Jimmy was the ball-carrier. Despite the constant thumping, Brown has never missed a game. "What amazed me," says former Giant halfback Frank Gifford, "is that for a man who takes the pounding he does never gets hurt."

Brown has been hurt. But he has played anyway—without complaining. The only time he ever lost the league rushing title—1962—he played much of the season with a lame wrist. He couldn't fend off tacklers with his straight-arm, a key weapon in his arsenal. In '64, the year Cleveland won the world championship, he played all season with a bad toe. After the title game, Jim admitted, "It bothered me considerably. Whenever I had to reach down and put complete weight on the toe, I didn't get the response I normally would."

Maybe prideful Brown feels that he's slowing down and doesn't want to play at anything but his best. His statistics last year would seem to refute that. Jim gained 1544 yards and that was second only to the great year he had in '63. Yet there is some talk about Brown's losing a little zip.

Buzz Nutter, Baltimore Colt center, doesn't think Brown's the player he once was. "Jimmy doesn't beat the defenses every week now the way he used to," Nutter says. "He's slowed down a trifle—something close to a half-step. He gets caught from behind

several times a year now where it never used to happen.

"That he's losing his speed is understandable. He's 30 years old and nearing that age where doing what used to come naturally is no longer quite so natural. Such as that once-great second effort. Jimmy still shows it to a tackler, but not on every carry the way he used to."

Brown has milked his enormous skills to prove that he is the best ball-carrier in football history. Now he looks at this achievement and looks at himself and says he wants more out of life than this.

"Football," Brown says, "isn't my life. Football is a very short career, a very small part of my life that does not take on the greatest importance. It's been very good for me and you know it has given me a lot of things. Financially, it's been tremendous. I think the education I had—at high school and at Syracuse and being in the Army for a while—I think this is very important to me. So, consequently, football plays a part in my life, but it is not the most important part."

"I am looking forward to the business world. I am looking forward to going into various things. My outlook is broader now and I am planning to go into other things that can be more important."

Jimmy wants to pursue his movie actor career. He got started in 20th Century Fox' *Rio Conchos*, when he played a U.S. cavalry sergeant in an action film set just after the Civil War.

"We were very happy with him," said casting director Bill Howard. "Oldtimers couldn't believe their eyes. There's a great naturalness about Jim. He photographs with a certain dignity. He never blew a line or muffed a scene. We never had to do one over because of him. Amazingly, he was letter perfect."

Executive producer David Weisbart said of Brown, "He has that indefinable spark all big stars have. Like Clark Gable, he projects."

Brown has outside interests beyond his movie career. He has been outspoken about the injustices toward Negroes in the United States, and when a sportswriter once asked him why he spoke out in an area that has nothing to do with sports, he replied: "Because I'm a man—and I have to be a man before everything else. I have to be true to myself. I don't want to become financially successful by losing my self-respect. I have to live with myself."

Jim has done more than talk about civil rights. Two years ago, he founded the Negro Industrial and Economic Union. "It is a non-profit organization," says Jim, "designed to help the Negro economically through job placement and business loans at low rates. There is a chapter on the West Coast and another in Cleveland. The one in Boston is in the process of being formed."

Last spring, Brown's name was associated with the Black Muslim-con-



Is Brown slipping? "Jimmy doesn't beat the defenses every week now the way he used to," says Baltimore Colt center Buzz Nutter.

trolled Main Bout Inc., an organization that started promoting Cassius Clay's heavyweight championship fight with challenger Ernie Terrell in Chicago—and when that fell through ended up promoting Clay's fight with George Chuvalo in Toronto. It was at that time that Clay had said he didn't want to join the U.S. Army nor did he want to fight in Vietnam. Brown, vice presi-

dent of Main Bout Inc., explained his association with it and his disassociation from Clay's Black Muslim and anti-patriotic views.

"I started Main Bout Inc. right here in Toronto with Mike Malitz at the time of the Ernie Terrell-George Chuvalo fight last November," Brown said, "and together we brought Clay into the company.

"I have never been pressured to join the Black Muslim movement. Not by Clay, Herbert Muhammad, or anybody else. I have my religion and they have theirs. I don't believe in the things Clay does and he doesn't ask me to. I don't ask him to go along with my beliefs, and our relationship has been on a strictly business basis.

(continued on page 74)

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4—Bye
 Sept. 11—at Buffalo
 Sept. 18—at Oakland
 Sept. 25—at Boston
 Oct. 2—Buffalo
 Oct. 8—Denver
 Oct. 16—Oakland
 Oct. 23—at Denver
 Oct. 30—Houston
 Nov. 6—San Diego
 Nov. 13—Miami
 Nov. 20—Boston
 Nov. 27—at New York
 Dec. 4—Bye
 Dec. 11—at Miami
 Dec. 18—at San Diego

Big Curtis McClinton, sixth in AFL rushing in '65, shifts to fullback for K.C.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

Talent-rich Kansas City was the AFL's second-best defensive team in 1965 and was runnerup in team scoring—to San Diego, in both of these categories.

Curtis McClinton, the destructive 227-pound halfback, had his greatest pro season, rushing for 661 yards (fifth in the loop) and six touchdowns. He also caught 37 passes for 590 yards, including three scores.

The late Mack Lee Hill had the

second-best per carry rushing average (5.02) of all runners in the league as he bulled for 627 yards. He and McClinton teamed for a devastating ground game. The Chiefs rolled up 1752 yards for a 4.19 average—the league's best. In a 38-36 loss to Houston, fullback Hill carried 17 times for 130 yards.

Four Chiefs were selected for the Associated Press All-Star team. Bobby Bell was named a corner linebacker, 290-pound tackle Jim Tyrer made the offensive team and defensive end Jerry Mays and safety Johnny Robinson were defensive squad choices.

In switching from defensive end, four-year veteran Bell was even better backing up the line. His play against the Jets in September earned him defensive player of the week honors. He made five direct tackles on the Jets sensational fullback Matt Snell, blocked a Jim Turner field-goal try and, late in the game, knocked the ball out of Joe Namath's hand, recovered it on the Jets' 24, setting up the winning touchdown.

Lennie Dawson was again the league's best percentage quarterback. His .534 mark was tops as were his 21 touchdown passes. Young backup man Pete Beathard showed his potential by coming off the bench to lead the Chiefs to a 31-23 victory over Denver, scoring twice himself.

Split end Chris Burford led K.C. receivers with 47 receptions for 575 yards and six touchdowns, despite missing the last month of the season with a shoulder separation. Otis Taylor, rookie flanker, had a fine first year with 26 receptions for 446 yards and five touchdowns.

And an inspiring story was written by tight end Fred Arbanas, who lost the vision in one eye as the result of a street beating by two assailants. Virtually written off at the outset, Arbanas caught 24 passes for 418 yards and four scores.

K.C. had the league's best punter in Jerry Wilson (46.1) while Willie Mitchell was second-best in punt returns and Bert Coan was third in kick-off returns.

When the Chiefs went on the warpath in '65 they did it in a big way. They thumped the Chargers 31-7 and ran up 52 and 45 points in victories over Houston and Denver.



Fred Williamson



Len Dawson



Chris Burford

LEADING RUSHER

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Curtis McClinton	175	661	3.78	48	6

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Len Dawson	305	163	53.4	2262	21	67	14	7.42

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Chris Burford	47	575	12.2	57	6

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

The Chiefs were the "fumblingest" team in the league last year and this undoubtedly kept them from finishing higher than their (7-5-2) third-place windup. They fumbled 34 times, losing 20 of the bobbles.

After an opening 37-10 bombing at the hands of Oakland, the Chiefs got rolling, winning three and tying one (to San Diego) before hosting champion Buffalo Oct. 17.

For three periods, K.C., behind its great defense, Mays, Buck Buchanan, Ed Lothamer, Bell, et al, led the Bills 7-3. Then, quicker than you could say Hank Stram, the Chiefs fumbled three times and the Bills came up with an interception. The result? A 23-7 Buffalo victory despite a total offense of only 80 yards.

The following week the Chiefs' ground attack recorded a number of imposing statistics at Houston, including a club-record 32 first downs, but the vaunted defense crumbled and Oiler defenders snagged four K.C. passes for a 38-36 triumph.

When the Bills eliminated them from Western contention, 34-25, at Buffalo, Dec. 12, the Chiefs surrendered the ball to Buffalo three more times on fumbles.

Both offensive and defensive lines, despite excellent first line personnel, suffered from lack of depth.

The Kansas City secondary gave up the second-fewest number of touchdowns through passes (18), and it also had the lowest number of interceptions in the league.

1966 FORECAST

Since they came to Kansas City in 1963 after winning the AFL crown in Dallas the season before, the Chiefs, blessed by an abundance of talent, have been something of an enigma.

They own the most consistent quarterback in the league in Len Dawson and the league's All-Star team is always well represented by Chiefs. But the team long has been stalked by tragedy and hard luck as well.

The latest blow came only five days before the end of the 1965 season when the great fullback Mack Lee Hill died suddenly while undergoing routine knee surgery. Hill's death caused a complete readjustment in the Kansas City offense.

Coach Hank Stram will switch Curt McClinton to fullback, the position he started at as a 1962 rookie, hoping Curt can make the transfer effectively. Bert Coan, an erratic 6-4, 220-pound former teammate of McClinton's at Kansas, has the best shot at the half-back post.

Other candidates will be Mike Garrett, the Heisman Trophy winner from Southern Cal., who was only a 20th K.C. draft choice, and Elijah Gipson, a fleet but powerful (222 pounds) speed-



Dawson, no. 16, led AFL passers in '65 with 53.4 completion percentage and 21 TD passes.

ster from Bethune-Cookman. And there is Ron Burton, a seven-year veteran acquired from the Boston Patriots for linebacker Jim Frazier. Burton, a former Northwestern All-America, never lived up to his pro potential.

Kansas City did not score heavily overall in the college draft (seven of 20 signed), losing 11 selections to the NFL, but wealthy owner Lamar Hunt thinks he collared the club's greatest catch ever in defensive end Aaron Brown of Minnesota.

A 6-5, 250-pound All-America, Brown was number-one choice and signed for a reported \$300,000, largest bonus ever given out by the Chiefs. Stram expects Brown or second-year man Chuck Hurston to fight it out for the defensive end spot left open by the departure of Mel Branch to the Miami Dolphins in the expansion draft.

Stram feels he has the most potent one-two quarterback punch in the league in Dawson and Beathard but he is keeping his fingers crossed on his receivers. He hopes that the shoulder of Burford, a brilliant receptionist, will be completely healed and the courageous Arbanas performs well again.

The Chiefs gave up Frank Jackson, a fine flanker, to Miami. Otis Taylor is the leading candidate for this slot. Other flanker contestants will be second-year Frank Pitts, Gloster Richardson (a member of the largest taxi squad in the league in 1965), and rookies Jerry Lamb of Arkansas and Willie

Ray Smith of Kansas.

Offensive tackle Jerry Corneilson has retired but the situation appears in good hands with Tyrer and four-year vet Dave Hill of Auburn around. Guards are Ed Budde and Curt Metz while Jon Gilliam is the center of this line, which averages 25.2 years.

The defense is again solid, notably in the linebacking with Bell, Sherrill Headrick, E.J. Holub, Smokey Stover and Walt Corey, although Stram could use some depth in the defensive and offensive fronts.

Other rookies signed include defensive back Fred Dawston of South Carolina State, cornerback Fletcher Smith of Tenn. A & I, and kicker Wayne Walker of Northwest La. State.

Garrett has outstanding credentials. He set an NCAA rushing record with 3221 yards in his three-year varsity career and posted 1440 yards in 1965 for the Trojans, most since Ollie Matson's 1566 at San Francisco in 1951. One of the top scorers in the nation, he was picked United Press International's back of the year.

One of these years all of the Chief talent might get stirred up, play consistently and maybe take the whole works. Right now, however, K.C. has some question marks—a hard-running successor to Hill (maybe Garrett), lack of depth, and, at this juncture, a dubious passing combine.

PROBABLE FINISH: 3

DENVER BRONCOS



Powerful fullback Cookie Gilchrist, with ball, gives Denver strong running and blocking.

LAST YEAR'S STRENGTHS

The Broncos showed a marked improvement over the 1964 club which won only two games, lost 11 and tied one. The difference was in the team's offensive game. There was little doubt Denver could move the ball in 1965. Its offense was second-best in the league (to the star-studded Chargers), gaining 4469 yards.

Controversial Cookie Gilchrist, the league's highest-paid performer, easily earned his keep, ripping off 954 yards in 252 rushes and was second only to record-setting Paul Lowe of San Diego.

What's more, the Broncos came up with a nifty find in 195-pound halfback Wendell Hayes of Humboldt State, who was 10th in the league in rushing with a 4.5 average.

Coach Mac Speedie's aim in 1965 was to improve a porous offensive line and he made considerable progress. A year before, Denver passers were thrown for losses 62 times while last fall the figure was reduced to 24, the second-lowest in the league.

Seven-year veteran tackle Eldon

Danenhauer and Bob Breitenstein, a 270-pound tackle from Tulsa, deserve much of the credit for the interior success along with guards Jerry Sturm and Bob McCullough.

The Broncos offered evidence that they could control the ball early in the season when they rolled up 220 yards on the ground in 49 running plays in upsetting Boston, 27-10 at Fenway Park. They also piled up an awesome 439 yards total offense in a game against Oakland.

Split end Lionel Taylor continued to break pass receiving records, leading the loop with 85 receptions for 1131 yards and he got able assistance from flanker Bob Scarpitto, who caught five touchdown passes. Abner Haynes led the league in kickoff returns (901 yards for a 26.5 average) as the Denver kickoff return men ran for more than a mile to lead the league here.

Denver produced one of the most talked-about rookies of the year in linebacker John Bramlett, a 220-pounder from Memphis State, who finished second to New York's Joe Namath in the balloting for top yearling.

Bramlett played minor-league baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals chain. Defensive Coach Ray Malavasi says of him, "I never saw anyone who relishes contact like Bramlett."

The Broncos continued to write an inspiring home attendance story as they averaged 31,398 in home games thanks to a phenomenally successful season ticket plan.

LAST YEAR'S WEAKNESSES

Speedie fretted early about his offensive line, yet it was his defense and quarterbacking which created the most serious problems. The Broncos had the second-poorest defensive yield in the league and opposing passers rolled up 2960 net yards and a 6.35 average, highest in the AFL. The Broncos also surrendered the second highest number of points (392.).

The defense held its own against a ground game but had troubles in rushing the passer and injuries to 1964 All-League cornerback Willie Brown weakened the secondary. Denver was notably weak in the linebacking department.

Injuries hurt the Broncos. Charlie Mitchell, the halfback who led the club in rushing in 1964, was lost for the season with a leg injury, and the career of fleet kickoff return specialist Odell Berry was terminated late in the season by kidney trouble.

Speedie was so high on the 180-pound Berry, dubbed the "Wafer," he decided against chasing Denver draftee, Bob Hayes, the world's fastest human, who ended up with Dallas of the NFL. "Odell is a better all-around football player and we decided to go with him and we saved the club \$100,000 in bonus money."

The injury hex was most cruel at quarterback. Hard-luck Mickey Slaughter, who directed the Broncos to a 16-13 come-from-behind victory over the Jets Oct. 3, injured his right arm in a game against San Diego Nov. 7, returned a month later against Oakland and lasted only a period before dislocating his left shoulder.

John McCormick, long troubled by a wobbly knee, had fine games in Boston and Kansas City (where he threw three TD passes) but by season's end, lendlease quarterback Jackie Lee of Houston was at the throttle.

McCormick and Slaughter had 26



Abner Haynes



Mickey Slaughter



Lionel Taylor

LEADING RUSHER

	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Cookie Gilchrist	252	954	3.79	44	6

LEADING PASSER

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Long	Int.	Avg.
Mickey Slaughter	147	75	51.0	864	6	51	12	5.88

LEADING RECEIVER

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Lionel Taylor	85	1131	13.3	63	6

passes intercepted between them and all told 30 aerals were snagged by defenders, second-highest in the league. The Buffalo Bills picked off five of Slaughter's throws in one game.

The Broncos also fumbled the ball 29 times, several of them costly bobbles. In a 31-23 loss to Kansas City, the Broncos fumbled four times, one setting up a clinching touchdown.

Denver doubled its 1964 victory output by finishing 4-10 but still hasn't had a winning season. Best mark was 1962 when the club finished 7-7. Career record is now 22-59-3.

1966 FORECAST

While hopes aren't soaring in the rarified Mile High City, there is definite optimism for continued improvement. Interest remains as high as the air with ticket sales threatening to topple last year's figure of 22,905 season ducats.

Denver's running attack may well be the AFL's best. In addition to the irpressible Gilchrist, Hayes and Haynes, the return of Charlie Mitchell will be welcomed. No problems here.

The problematical linebacking corps may have received the boost it needed with the acquisition of three-time All-League Archie Matsos, who came up from Oakland in the trade for tight end Hewritt Dixon. Matsos will play the middle spot between Bramlett and returnees Jerry Hopkins and Jim Thibert. Rookies Ron Sbranti (6-2, 230) of Utah State, a 9th draft choice, and Fred Forsberg (6-2, 235) of Washington, a 14th-round selection, are highly touted here.

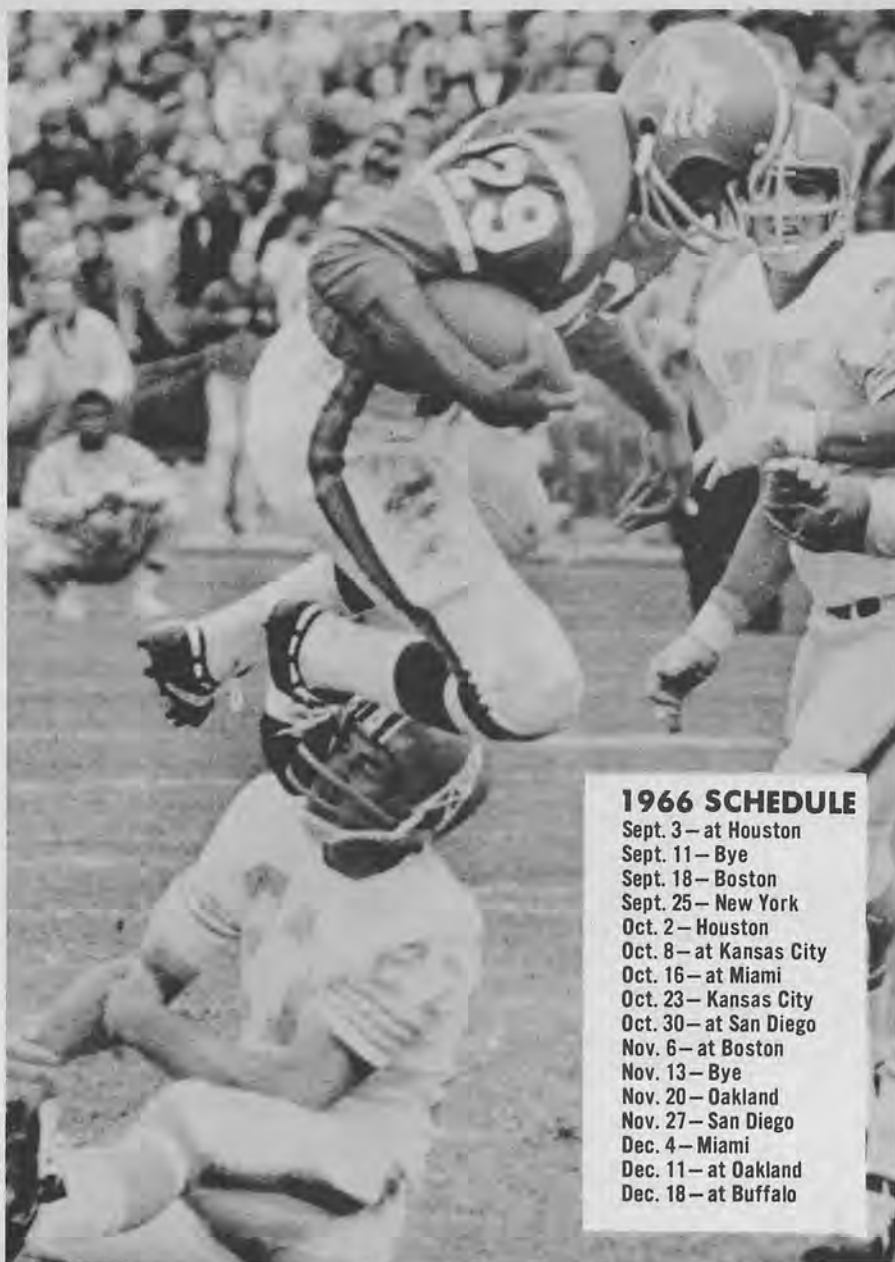
The Broncos missed out on their top two choices, Jerry Shay, Purdue tackle, and Nebraska end Freeman White, but sightened their third selection, Bob Hadrick, the Purdue receiver who teamed with Boilermaker quarterback Bob Griese. Hadrick should complement Lionel Taylor, Scarpitto and Al Denson in pass catching.

Another promising catch was flanker Eric Crabtree, a 5-11, 190-pound standout from the University of Pittsburgh.

Best rookie candidates to bolster the improved offensive line appear to be 270-pound Joe Brooks of Tulsa and 250-pound Pat Matson of Oregon, both tackles, and guards Jim Burns (230) of Northwestern and Jim Ross (255) of San Jose State. They were among 10 free agents signed. Denver signed eight of its '65 draft choices.

Ends Martin Davis of Wichita and John Maddox of Mississippi and Oregon tackle Jerry Inman were defensive futures signed.

Speedie intends to go with just one quarterback, scrapping the alternating plan. Certain to get a shot is Scotty Glacken, a 6-1, 190-pound passer from Duke. Glacken was a seventh-round pick. Denver signatured a flock of free-agent quarterbacks including 6-4, 205-pound Max Chobian, a 1964



Swift halfback Wendell Hayes, no. 29, was a pleasant surprise for the Broncos last year.

1966 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3—at Houston
Sept. 11—Bye
Sept. 18—Boston
Sept. 25—New York
Oct. 2—Houston
Oct. 8—at Kansas City
Oct. 16—at Miami
Oct. 23—Kansas City
Oct. 30—at San Diego
Nov. 6—at Boston
Nov. 13—Bye
Nov. 20—Oakland
Nov. 27—San Diego
Dec. 4—Miami
Dec. 11—at Oakland
Dec. 18—at Buffalo

signalcaller at San Fernando State, and West Virginia's Allen McCune.

The Broncos must develop a consistent passer to balance their attack. Without that balance, they'll remain in the cellar. A sound Slaughter or McCormick might do the job, particularly with the dual running-pass receiving threats, Gilchrist, Haynes and Hayes.

Denver was not badly hurt by the Miami expansion draft. It lost defensive end Ed Cooke tackle Tom Nomina but hopes that veterans Ray Jacobs and Max Leetow can offset the loss. Linebacker Tom Erlandson also went to Miami but Matsos will be on hand. The Broncos also lost defensive back John McGeever to the Dolphins but signed two promising rookies, Bob Richardson of UCLA and Goldie Sellers of Grambling. Nemiah Wilson was a rookie sur-

prise last season and John Griffin developed rapidly. It is hoped that veteran safety Goose Gonsoulin, who played out his option, will be back.

Three-year center Ray Kubala anchors the offensive line. That unit's no worry this year. Speedie is concerned about defense and quarterbacking.

The Broncos are a popular team in Denver since Gerry and Allan Phipps took over ownership. The club should be stronger and might add a couple of victories to the '65 mark. Gilchrist can be a problem but he is still one of the best drawing cards in the AFL and one of its best players.

The Broncos will make the Western Division a tighter race and maybe topple a couple of the league's top contenders. But the moon is still more than a few miles away.

PROBABLE FINISH: 4



Coach Blanton Collier says Brown has a lot more football in him if he wants it: "He could do it as long as the want persists."

(continued from page 69)

"We all have the right to feel and act as we want. I spent four years in the ROTC while at Syracuse and I was commissioned a second lieutenant. I put in my tour of duty at Ft. Benning, Ga., and went on to complete seven and a half years in the active reserve, coming out a captain. I feel my military activities speak for me on the subject of the draft and service to my country.

"I have brought 15 Negro pro football players into the Main Bout closed-circuit set-up as theater exhibitors. Included in this group are Cookie Gilchrist, Ernie Green, and Johnny Brown. I didn't see any reason why Negroes shouldn't participate in the promotion of boxing and those to whom I have awarded exhibitor franchises for this fight are going to make out all right.

"They're going to be in on the next promotion of Main Bout and the one after that. I'm doing the color commentary on closed-circuit TV for this fight (Clay-Chuvalo), and, I hope, for many others to follow. That's where my interest lies."

Brown's never seriously indicated

that his interest would lie in football after his playing days are over. Arthur Modell, the Browns' president, wants to keep Jimmy in the game and with the Browns. "I look forward to inviting him to stay on with us," says Modell. "He's made too much of a contribution to have him withdraw from the scene. I think he can render some service to himself and us. Perhaps he'll stay active in Personnel, maybe on the collegiate level. Without a doubt, Jim would make a great coach. He's extremely perceptive, has a complete understanding of what our coaches are trying to accomplish. He'd be invaluable to us at Hiram (the Browns' pre-season training camp), working with the rookies as well as the veterans who run the ball."

Cleveland coach Blanton Collier agrees with Modell. "Because of his analytical ability, unquestionably he could become a coach," Collier says.

Collier, at least for '66, still has the luxury of considering Brown a player. The Browns have fashioned, of late, a strong passing game with Frank Ryan throwing to such outstanding receivers as Gary Collins and Paul Warfield. The aerial success had forced the defense to

lay back a little, and it makes the going a bit easier for Jimmy Brown. Cleveland's offensive balance makes it a contender for the '66 title. In Brown's nine years, he has played with only one world championship club.

"That's what we play for," he says. "To win. It's nothing if you don't." In '65, the Browns slipped around in the mud while the Green Bay Packers whipped them in the title game. Jimmy had a bad day, and would surely like to avenge that loss and go out a winner.

That is, if he really will go out after '66. "A man who takes care of himself physically and who is as intelligent as Jim," says Blanton Collier, "can go on as long as he has it in his heart. This boy has an excellent analytical mind. He thinks out what he does. If he wants the football, he could do it as long as the want persists."

Can a guy who's still so superior, who above all others is the living example of the perfect football player—swift, strong, and bright—turn his back on the sport? No, shout many, hopefully. "Everyone always says, 'Jim doesn't mean it,'" Brown says. "They are wrong. I do mean it." We'll see.

(continued from page 49)

hockey zones. He had hoped to use it on the snow-covered sidelines.

"You can have it," the man said.

"Swell," Duncan replied.

"But it will take us eight hours to make it."

"Lovely," Duncan said.

Meanwhile, back at the stadium, a helicopter was flying around in large concentric circles blowing the snow off the seats. It hovered maybe 25 feet above them and it went around and around, thereby setting a new Fox River area record for airborne trips inside a ball park. Elsewhere on the combat scene, there was a report that somebody had stored some television equipment in Vinnie Lombardi's sauna bath. Around here they will tell you that this is not unlike making wine in the church basement.

By noon the helicopter pilot had either finished his job or fallen victim to centrifugal force and the field was a blend of enough shovellers to stock the road company of *Exodus* and nine football players. The players were quarterbacks and kickers and they kept to the middle of the playing surface, alternately throwing passes, kicking footballs and trying not to get run over by a fleet of motorized snow-blowers.

As the forecast turned from snow to rain a spent messenger staggered into the press box stockade and handed Rozelle a letter from Gilroy, Calif. Across the face of the envelope was printed:

"The temperature in Gilroy is 65 degrees. What is it where you are?"

And on this happy note, Lou Groza kicked off. It was a tough first half. Bart Starr, the Green Bay quarterback, instantly opened the Browns' middle and left it bare. Even without a snowstorm, this is an excellent way to acquire third-degree pneumonia.

Starr found the middle of the Browns' defense a fascin-

ating attraction and he worked it over all afternoon. Nevertheless, the first touchdown was hidden elsewhere. Bart threw long and toward the far sidelines to Carroll Dale, who was being shadowed by Walter Beach. Dale went up and Beach went down. They continued to move in this fashion like one last chorus of *Loch Lomond*. Dale grabbed the ball and Beach grabbed the mud. Everyone in Curley Lambeau Field agreed it was a fair exchange.

The play covered 47 yards and gave Green Bay a 7-0 lead. It stayed in front after the Browns' Frank Ryan and Gary Collins had collaborated on their own touchdown. Bobby Franklin, the Cleveland ball holder, took the pass from center with the grace of Sonny Liston at the Bolshoi Ballet. In the scramble Lou Groza had to throw a pass. It was historic but messy and Green Bay kept a 7-6 lead. At halftime, with Groza and Don Chandler kicking footballs all over the joint, Green Bay led, 13-12.

All through that period, Lombardi and Blanton Collier strode the sidelines like field marshals peering into the gloom at the Battle of the Bulge. But after the intermission, the Green Bays positively murdered Cleveland. Even the cooks and bakers couldn't get out of this one alive.

Paul Hornung and Jimmy Taylor devoured Cleveland whole.

On the other side, Jimmy Brown was brutalized continually by a ferocious Green Bay charge. The Browns without Jimmy are in a lot of trouble. Come to think of it, they were in a hell of a lot even with him yesterday.

Mercifully, it ended with a million Eskimos charging onto the field and hammering away at the goal posts. One of them, an enterprising young man with a hack saw, worked away at one of the bloody stumps for hours afterwards.

"Last year," a man explained, "the kids sold them for so much an inch."

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(continued from page 64)

men in pro football history as he tallied 22 touchdowns last year to win the N.F.L. scoring title. But the Bears had already lost their first two games before the wraps were removed from the dazzling young Kansan, and even Say-

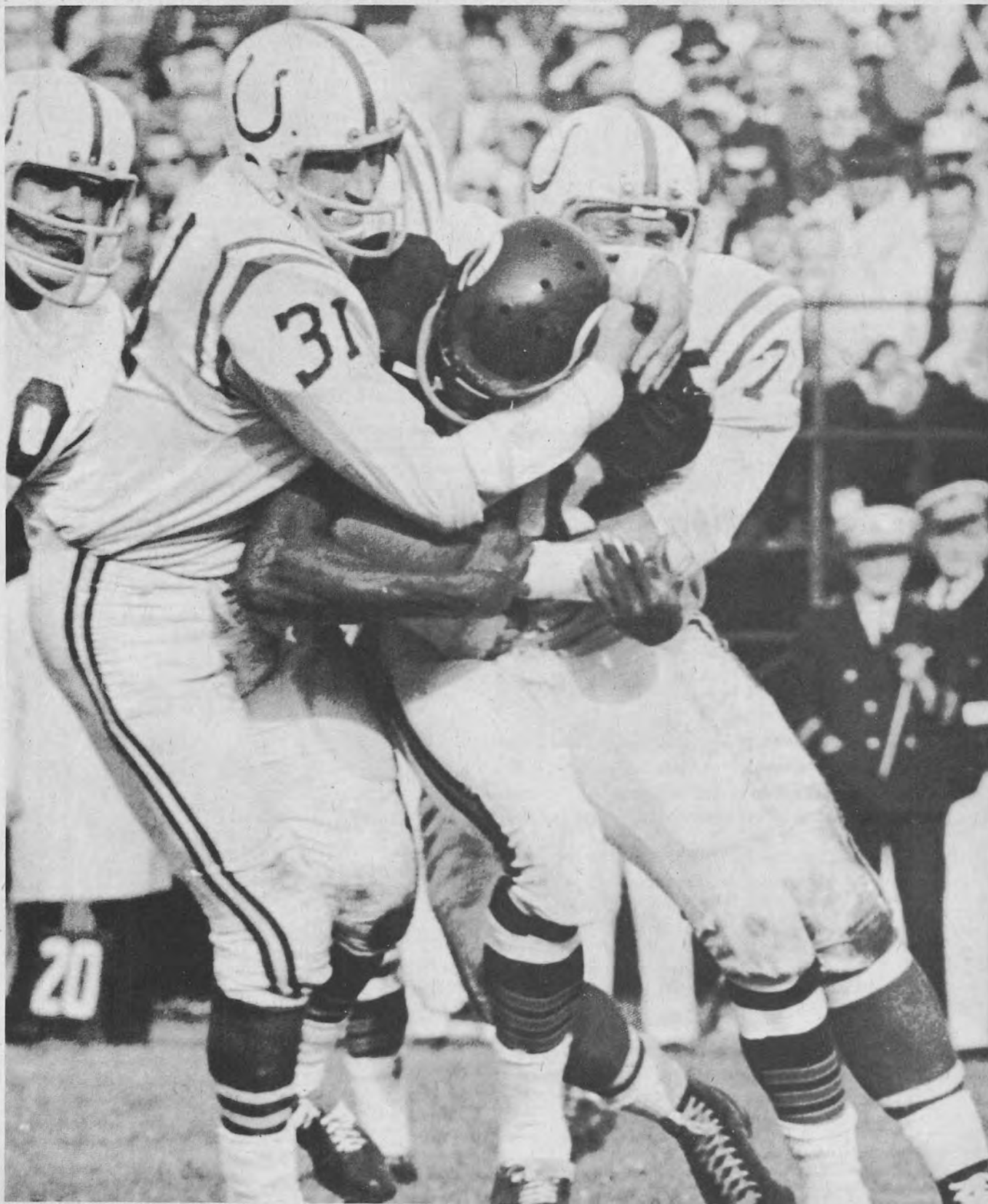
and one of the most talked-about freshers' heroics were too late to stop the Green Bay Packers' pennant rush.

Most football authorities, and just about every fan, figure things will be different this fall. They anticipate that Sayers, barring injury, will join forces

with quarterback Rudy Bukich and linebacker Dick Butkus in bringing the title back to Chicago for the first time since 1963.

Is there any defense against the mercurial Sayers once the fantastic fellow gets up a head of steam with a pig-

Says the Minnesota Vikings' coach Norm Van Brocklin of Gale Sayers: "He's got everything—speed, tremendous moves and instinct."



skin under his arm? N.F.L. coaches say there is no fool-proof defense against Sayers' astonishing sleight-of-foot showmanship. But all, of course, intend to try.

Bear opponents tried everything short of atomic weapons last autumn but they couldn't shoot down Sayers. They doubled him and sometimes tripped him. They tried to grab him as he started out for passes to destroy his patterns. They charged him with defensive ends to interrupt his timing. They keyed on him with weak-side safetymen. Whenever possible, opponents attempted to "give him the inside" to prevent him from running outside.

And through it all, Sayers, who had set Big Eight Conference records by the helmetful as an All-America at Kansas, grinned and just kept running.

"Gale scared them so badly," chortles assistant coach Abe Gibrone of the Bears, "that any time he came out on the strong side, they'd automatically zone him so as not to let a linebacker cover him. They knew he'd kill 'em man-to-man on a linebacker."

Several Bear opponents went into unorthodox defenses in an effort to contain Galloping Gale. The Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers both undershifted to combat Sayers' weak-side runs. It didn't work. He got around them anyway. And when the Packers opened up the inside in order to shut off Sayers' wide sprints, the young phenom simply accepted the invitation and went dancing through the middle. At 200 pounds, Sayers is stronger and better equipped to pick up tough inside yardage than most halfbacks.

Sayers' 1965 statistics read as follows: Carried 166 times from scrimmage for 867 yards and 14 touchdowns; returned 16 punts for 238 yards and one touchdown, and ran back 21 kickoffs for 660 yards and a touchdown; completed two of three passes for 53 yards and a touchdown; caught 29 passes for 507 yards and 6 touchdowns.

Impressive? The fans aren't the only people who think so. Rival coaches and N.F.L. players are awed by the young Bear gazelle, too.

"I've got so darned much respect for the guy," declares Charley Winner, the defensive brain of the Baltimore coaching staff who moved up to the top job at St. Louis over the winter. Winner's Cardinals must meet Sayers and the Bears in a Monday night game Oct. 31 in St. Louis, and Winner readily admits he spent a few sleepless nights during the off-season trying to figure out a way to harness Sayers.

"He gets around the horn faster than anyone I know," says Winner. "He really gets upstream. It's a mistake to overload to the strong side against him. If you do, he'll go the weak side. And if you undershift, he'll run strong side."

Coach Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers, a devoted football traditionalist, believes it is foolhardy to discard basic defensive concepts



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against Sayers or anybody else.

"We tried a few things against him here and there," Lombardi admits. "But basically, you've got to defend against Sayers like you defend against any normal runner, which Sayers definitely is not. He's a tremendous outside threat, much faster and trickier than the normal halfback. But you can't afford to overload on him or you jeopardize yourself elsewhere."

Two of Lombardi's athletes are much less scholarly in their appraisal of the fleet-footed Sayers. "He's simply the best damn athlete I've seen since I came into the pros," says halfback Paul Hornung.

"Sayers? Sure, I've got a defense against him," says tackle Hank Jordan. "I just step out of the way and let Willie Wood hit him."

"Really," insists Jordan in his Virginia drawl, "I don't think anybody knows how fast Sayers actually is. Only time I've ever seen him is in the huddle. Once he tucks the football under his arm he's invisible."

Coach Norm Van Brocklin of the Minnesota Vikings still takes an occasional needing as a result of a remark he made to a Chicago Tribune sportswriter early last fall. Asked what he thought of Sayers, the volatile Dutchman said, "Heck, he may be just another fast catback. He hasn't really been hit yet."

Shrewd old Coach George Halas of

the Bears made certain Van Brocklin's remark was brought to Sayers' attention, and the following Sunday, the Kansas Comet scored four touchdowns against Van Brocklin's club.

After watching Sayers romp unopposed through the Viking defense, Chicago American sportswriter Brent Musburger wound up his story by saying: "Gale Sayers still hasn't been hit."

"I didn't intend to question Sayers' courage," Van Brocklin said recently with a chuckle. "And above all, I didn't intend to make him mad. I merely meant that he really hadn't been tested, and at the time I made the remark, he hadn't."

"He's a superstar, there's no doubt about that. He's got everything — speed, tremendous moves, and instinct. He always cuts at the right time. But the instinct — that's the thing that makes him so outstanding. That's the thing you can't teach."

Bobby Boyd, the all-pro defender who plays left corner back for the Baltimore Colts, has had ample opportunity to observe Sayers' classy running first-hand. Boyd often represents the Colts' first — and last — line of defense against Sayers when the Bears are deployed to the right and Sayers runs strong-side.

"I can tell you this about him," Boyd said. "He's the only guy I know that I invariably underestimate when I go up to get him. I've been in this



The Chicago Bears' Gale Sayers has instinctive moves to elude defenders, bottom, and the speed to outrace them in the open, top.



league seven years and am supposed to be pretty good at turning a guy in. But he got clear around me a couple of times last year."

Of all the teams Sayers played against during his 1965 freshman campaign, the Colts probably did the best job of containing him. Sayers broke away for only one touchdown run against the Colts in two games—for 61 yards off a pitchout. As a kickoff and punt returner, Gale was effectively handcuffed by the Colt special units. How did the Colts keep Sayers relatively in check?

"We just concentrated on getting a lot of people around him," explains coach Don Shula. "We think he is the closest thing to our Lenny Moore we've seen. We knew that, just like Lenny, Gale will beat you if you leave it up to one guy to stop him."

"So we did everything possible to avoid letting him get in one-on-one situations against our defenders. We tried to get a lot of people moving toward him all the time. Those were our secrets—pursuit and gang tackling."

While Shula has the highest regard for Sayers' contribution to the Bears' whirlwind finish of 1965, he believes Sayers must share the plaudits for the Bears' comeback with quarterback Rudy Bukich and linebacker Dick Butkus.

"Actually, the Bears' big improvement stemmed from three factors," Shula declares. "First was the quarterbacking of Bukich. This was tremendously important. Next was Butkus' contribution. You can't discount this."

It took Butkus a few games to learn the job because he was a rookie, but once he got going, he picked up the defense. And when your defense is going good, your offense has a lot more scoring chances.

"Then, and I don't mean to list these fellows in any particular order, was Sayers. His performance, of course, spoke for itself. It gave the Bears versatility they hadn't had in years. With Sayers in the lineup, you never could tell where they were going to come at you."

There is one certain head coach who knows precisely how he would go about attempting to put Sayers in leg-irons if the challenge were his. George Wilson can speak freely on the subject, because he no longer is in the National Football League and doesn't have to face Sayers this fall.

Wilson, who left the Washington Redskins staff last winter to sign on as new coach of the Miami Dolphins entry in the American Football League, said that if he were coaching a team against the Bears "the first thing I would do would be to double him."

"I'd put two men on him whenever possible because he's such a tremendous threat. It might weaken my defense elsewhere to a certain extent, but I'd take a chance on that. Football is a guessing game, anyway. Especially in key situations, like third down and

long yardage, I'd assign somebody to Sayers with instructions to race him up to the hotdog stand if necessary."

It might be necessary. If Sayers continues to scamper as he did last fall, the gridiron may have to be widened to include the hotdog stand and give him running room.

One thing is certain: Wherever Sayers runs, unless it is dead backwards, it will be all right with his Bear teammates. They are as sold on their prize ground-gaining chattel as he is on them.

The Bears realize, of course, that Sayers represents a large part of their meal check. And besides, they happen to like his attitude. He followed every one of his 22 touchdowns last autumn by complimenting the blockers who sprang him.

After Sayers had sprinted through the New York Giants' bewildered defense twice for touchdowns in Yankee Stadium, Sayers offered this description of his stunning feats:

"Both were end runs developing from a pass threat off the option play. The key to both runs was the blocking of our two tackles. In the first one, Herman Lee took out the Giants' corner man on one side. And in the second one, Bob Wetoska did the same thing on the other side. Both blocks were so terrific I couldn't miss."

Makes it sound simple, doesn't he? Small wonder Sayers draws remarks

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such as the following from his teammates. Guard Mike Rabold speaking:

"He's a tremendous tonic to this team, I'll tell you. We're making blocks we never were able to make before and yet we've got the same personnel in our offensive line. The reason? Sayers. With him in the backfield, the guys across the line from us can't dig in because they don't know where we're going to come at them. Sayers is liable to go anywhere."

"Before we got Sayers," Rabold reflected, "other teams figured we were gonna pass most of the time and those big defensive tackles would tee me up just like a golf ball and swing away."

Just as Bear opponents have been burning the midnight oil trying to dream up defenses to throttle Sayers, the coach of the young phenom, George Halas, is determined to thwart the plans of the enemy. The key to the whole thing, Halas knows, is offensive balance. If the Bears can retain the ability to strike at an opponent where he least expects it, Halas' club will keep on rolling through rival defenses almost at will.

Halas was one of the first pro football men to accept the old axiom of college coaches that the best defense is a good offense. And the best offense in pro football this fall, Halas acknowledges with a grin, quite likely will be the one built around Gale Sayers.

(continued from page 26)

United Press International polls.

It was a hard-earned and just plum for a guy who broke in with the 1957 Detroit Lions as a third-string quarterback out of Occidental College.

Namath's debut was something else.

Not since Clint Hartung was canonized in the Giants' baseball training camp 20 years ago had a young athlete faced so much pressure in cynical New York.

"He's going to be great," said Sid Gillman, San Diego's usually reticent coach.

"He has it all. He will be the best," said Lou Saban, the former Buffalo coach who usually husbands his praise.

Everyone, it seemed, seconded the motion.

"But he's not going to revolutionize the game in his rookie season," cautioned Weeb Ewbank, the Jets' coach.

He didn't. But he won the rookie-of-the-year award in a trot and there was a suspicion throughout the league that Namath, not Kemp, was the best quarterback in the league during December.

Background isn't the only contrast between Jack and Joe. Temperamentally they are July and February. In quarterbacking technique they are Perry Como and Ringo Starr.

Kemp is serious-minded, conservative, intense, outspoken on almost any issue but football, a wearer of bankers'

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Namath's "going to be great," predicted Sid Gillman, San Diego coach, before '65 season.

gray and tasteful vests, an admirer of Barry Goldwater.

Namath is broad-minded in the most swinging meaning of that term. He never, never loses his cool, socially has all the moves, couldn't care less about the balance of payments deficit, effects dark glasses and long sideburns and is an admirer and close friend of Mamie Van Doren.

For sheer passing power, no one in pro football excels Kemp. "Strongest throwing arm I've ever seen," swears

yard field goal to tie San Diego, 20-20, on Thanksgiving Day.

If Kemp has a serious flaw it's his occasional reluctance to throw to secondary receivers. Buffalo's depleted receiver situation might have accounted for that, however.

In 1965 necessity was the mother of total confidence for Kemp. During the winter Saban traded away Cookie Gilchrist, a great fullback and possibly the best of all pass-blocking backs.

It wasn't a value-for-value trade.



Kemp has the "strongest throwing arm I've ever seen," says Giant quarterback Earl Morrall.

Earl Morrall, who played with Kemp at Detroit.

It isn't just a matter of throwing long. His ball zooms into the receiver with chest-bruising velocity and, when it's working, is difficult to intercept.

A nimble runner, Kemp is a helpful scrambler. He used to leave his protective pocket indiscriminately, but now his spots are picked carefully.

His 9-yard run, with nine seconds left to play, stopped the clock and enabled Pete Gogolak to kick a 22-

yard field goal to tie San Diego, 20-20, on Thanksgiving Day.

But throwing behind almost any other fullback after having thrown behind Cookie is like an infantryman advancing behind a baby carriage instead of the latest-model tank.

Yet Kemp functioned more smoothly without Cookie than with him. There was a school of thought that said Jack over-relied on Gilchrist. If it was true, the umbilical cord was broken quickly

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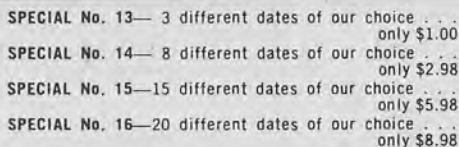
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last year.

In the third game of the season the Bills' swift flanker, Elbert Dubenion, suffered a knee injury which forced him out for the season.

The next Sunday the electronic age claimed the other talented wide receiver, Glenn Bass. He stepped out of bounds and tore ankle ligaments on a television cable.

That left Kemp with two comparative strangers protecting his flanks. At split end was Charley Ferguson, a traveled veteran who can break up a game or his own quarterback's heart. At flanker was Ed Rutkowski, a gutsy utility man with only moderate speed.

Ferguson dropped two potential touchdown passes by Kemp in his first start, a 34-3 loss to San Diego.

To further complicate matters Saban inserted a rookie. Paul Costa of Notre Dame, at tight end before mid-season. Costa never had played the position in a spotty career at South Bend.

Yet Kemp made him his bread-and-butter receiver. The huge freshman began making miracle catches and Kemp wisely picked him out in the toughest pinches.

This took the pressure off Ferguson and Rutkowski, and both started making contributions.

Saban then made a strategic trade before the bartering deadline. He acquired Bo Roberson, the former Olympic broad jumper, from Oakland.

The Raiders used Roberson mostly on hitch and hook patterns and as a decoy to help Art Powell shake loose.

But Kemp became the first quarterback to show confidence in Bo. The swift Cornell graduate as a result, began to catch the bomb.

"It's a pleasure playing with Jack," he praised. "He's got the head." Roberson isn't the only player who endorsed the Kemp method in '65.

"I wish I could follow him around all season and learn what he knows" enthused Namath after watching Kemp beat the Jets in an exhibition game.

He sounded sincere.

But by the 12th week of the season Joe Willie—as he signs his autographs—had a few things to teach all the other quarterbacks.

One was a warehouse of passing speeds. Namath seems to have one for each occasion and for each individual receiver.

Sonny Werblin, the Jets' owner, and Ralph Wilson, payer of the Bills, would have nightmares featured by torn muscles, but it would be interesting to stage a long passing contest between their quarterbacks.

Kemp has the Bobby Feller delivery, with every muscle used in the launching. Namath's delivery looks like something he learned from a bait-casting champion. He's all wrist, but the ball zooms.

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that originally sold for \$200.00 an acre now sells for \$20,000.00 an acre, a profit of 1000%! Buyers who took advantage of low opening prices have become wealthy. The ground floor opportunity of Las Vegas is gone, BUT ANOTHER AREA OF PROSPEROUS NEVADA IS BEING RELEASED FOR PUBLIC SALE!

This area has such a tremendous growth potential, such a fantastic unlimited future, that wise investors have purchased large acreage. Bing Crosby's ranch was one of the largest ranches in the county. James Stewart is Honorary Sheriff. Yes, the smart experienced investors have sensed the future and are buying MEADOW VALLEY RANCHOS in Elko County, Nevada.

MEADOW VALLEY RANCHOS has all the factors needed to boom... to prosper... to skyrocket its land values. Ideally located in the prospering Elko Valley, The Ranchos have the backdrop of the statuesque Ruby Mountains. The sparkling Humboldt River, actually flows through the property and is a valuable asset of the Ranchos. Every Rancho fronts on a graded road, The City of Elko, with its long established schools, churches and medical facilities is MEADOW VALLEY RANCHOS friendly neighbor.

FISHING: A fisherman's paradise. Huge Rainbows, Brook Trout and German Browns abound in Alpine-like lakes and streams.

GOLF: Enjoy leisurely golfing, with never a rush for starting times, at the city owned Ruby View Golf Course. This beautiful golf course is only minutes from the property.

LAKE OSINO: No charge to Rancho owners for full privileges at nearby Lake Osino. Fish, Picnic, Relax at this private recreation area.

HUNTING: You will find the hunting of your life. Big game Mule Deer are abundant. Duck, Quail and Chukar are plentiful.

YOUR PROFITABLE TOMORROW —

YES, wise investors are now buying in MEADOW VALLEY RANCHOS, but America's largest corporations, who buy in advance of population explosion, are also investing throughout Nevada. U.S. COMMERCE BUREAU FACT: Per capita income in Nevada is highest of all 50 states.

TAX RELIEF — No State Income, Gift or Inheritance Tax. The low Real Property Tax is actually limited by the State Constitution.

WHAT ARE THE TOTAL COSTS?

The full price of the title to your 1 1/4 acre Rancho is only \$495. Total payment schedule is \$1 down, and \$10 per month. No interest, no carrying charges. John D. Rockefeller said, "The big fortunes of the future will be made in Real Estate." You are not required to do anything to your land. Live or vacation on it, or watch its value grow, then sell all or part of it for a profit. Your profitable tomorrow is here today in MEADOW VALLEY RANCHOS.



Kemp led Buffalo to the '65 championship.

Predictably, the opposing defenses tried to blitz him out of the park, knowing he wouldn't dare leave his pocket.

But by December the blitz was a something in everyone's anti-Namath game plan.

"You can't shake his tree," commented Al Davis, the AFL's new commissioner who formerly coached Oakland.

"Basically he gets rid of the ball too fast," explained Coach Mike Holovak of Boston, generally considered the league's master of the blitz.

"You can get almost right on top of him and he still gets rid of that ball," added Lou Saban. "And I don't mean get rid of it frantically. He's either spotted his receiver or he's found a place to throw it without harm."

Namath's crowning accomplishment came in the AFL All-Stars' victory over the Bills in Houston last January.

Two days before the game, National Broadcasting Company executives were in a sweat over his appearance.

"He's parting his hair on the opposite side and letting it grow. His sideburns are two inches under his cheek bones and he has a moustache you won't believe," complained one television man. "He looks like a Tijuana cab driver."

The Jet brass wasn't too happy about his constant companion in Houston. Mamie Van Doren.

But not even Mamie could distract attention from Joe during the game. He not only shaved off the moustache, he nearly passed the Bills out of Rice Stadium.

The Stars, quarterbacked by San Diego's John Hadl, trailed, 13-10, at the half.

The last 30 minutes, however, belonged to Joe Willie.

He tried 18 passes and completed 10 for two touchdowns, both to the fleet Lance Alworth of San Diego. He was an easy victor in the voting for most valuable player.

His triumph, ironically, pointed up the flaws in the Jet ship he is called upon to skipper.

There are, speaking plainly, no Alworths among the New York receivers. In fact Webb Ewbank probably would trade his group of pass catchers for those of the AFL's Miami.

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(continued from page 9)

the running backs in the American League, I regard him as good enough to start in anybody's backfield in pro football and have ignored last year's statistics. He was 14th in yards gained—302 in 74 carries—but averaged 4.07 yards, a mark surpassed by only four others who carried 70 or more times. He was handicapped by injuries. He has good speed, good size, is a good inside and outside runner and catches the ball well.

Snell is a versatile athlete. He has played defensive back, defensive end—almost a different position every year while he was at Ohio State. He is a big, strong runner, blocks well, catches well and is fast for his size. His 4.51 carrying average on 763 yards in 169 tries was second-best in the league last season.

Lowe led the league in yards (1,121), rushing average (5.05) and touchdowns (7) and is now the all-time rushing leader of the American League with 4,249 yards in 840 carries over five years to Gilchrist's 4,010 in four years. Lowe, who has averaged 5.06 yards a rush in his career, will beat you with the long play. He's a great outside runner with unusual speed. This—along with his receiving ability—makes him a threat at all times.

Carlton reminds you of Hornung. The same big, strong type. He's valuable on a short-yardage situation. He seems to run better out of fullback than halfback. He had the longest run—80 yards—in the league last season, gained 592 yards in 156 hauls and scored the second most touchdowns—six.

Gilchrist's big problem has been his inconsistency. His strong point is his size. He's 6-3 and 251. He has good speed to complement it. He's a sturdy blocker. He carried the ball more often—252 times—than anybody else in

either league except Jimmy Brown and was second in the American in yardage—954.

Daniels is the kind of runner able to break a game open at any time with a long run. He came into his own last year and was third in the league with 884 yards on 219 carries. He's big and fast, but not a devastating blocker.

Billy Joe always gives 100 percent. He's a big, strong runner and a good blocker. He'll do a fine job of pass protection and has a good knack for running the screen pass. He averaged 3.07 yards on 123 attempts.

Burrell is a small back. Just 6 feet and 185 pounds. Speed and fine hands are his chief treasures. Size is his problem. He's not the ideal big back you are looking for. He averaged 4.06 yards a carry in gaining 528 yards.

Mathis is consistency and effort personified. He has the size you want—6-1 and 220—although not any frightening breakaway speed. He's a consistent runner who will pick up those short yards for you to keep the football. He also can catch it. He averaged 4.11 yards on 147 rushes.

Wendell Hayes came into his own as a rookie last season. He has good speed, good outside running ability, catches the ball well. He's not big and is handicapped as a blocker.

Oddly, the 10 running backs in the younger American League have slightly more aggregate experience—made possible by Gilchrist's 12 years as a pro—with a total of 50 playing years to 47. They have a miniscule edge in age, height and weight, too, strangely—25.8 to 25.9 in years, 217.4 to 214 in weight and 6.1 to 6.09 in height. Four of the National backs have been playing more than six years—Jim Brown (9), Tim Brown (7), Jim Taylor (8) and Hornung (8)—while only two Americans have more than six years of playing experience—Gilchrist (12) and Carlton (7).

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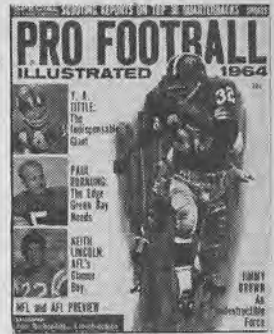
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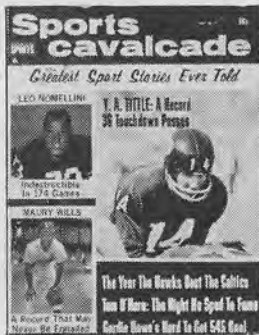
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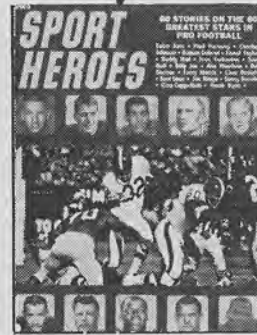
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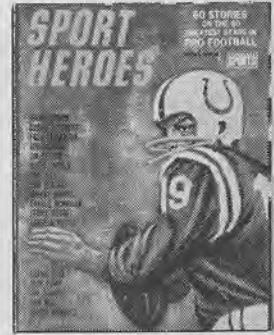
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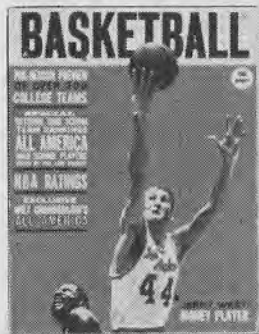
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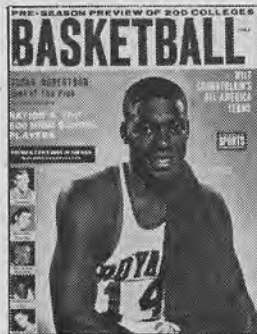
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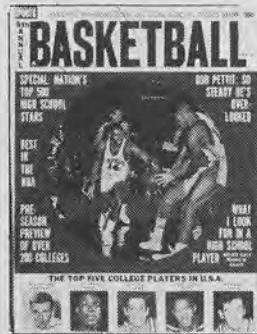
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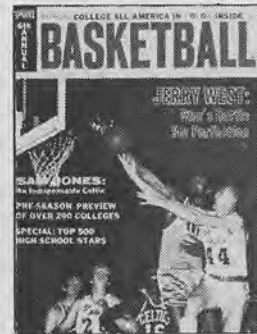
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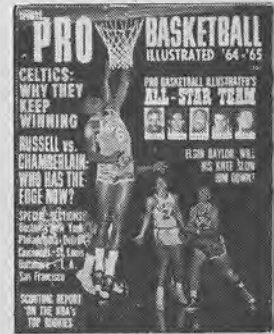
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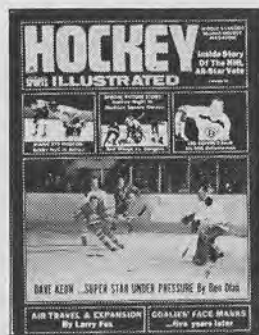
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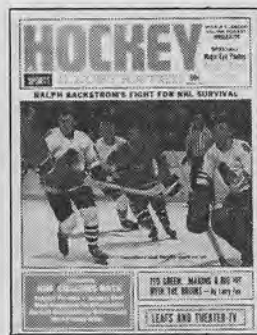
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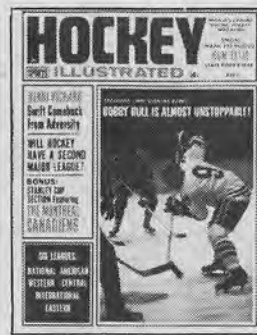
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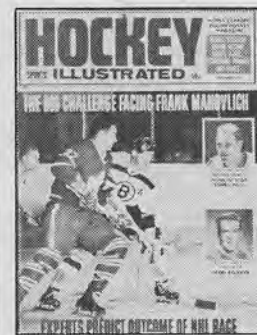
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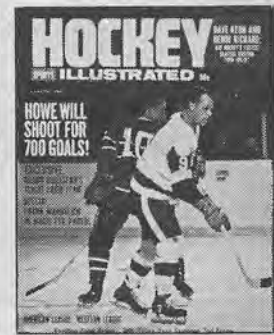
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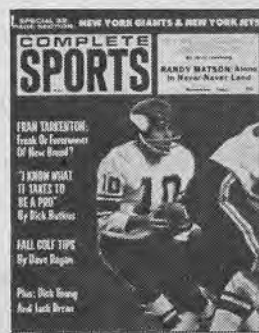
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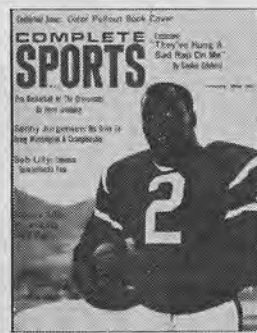
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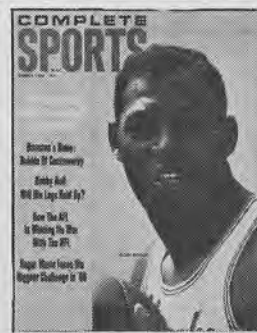
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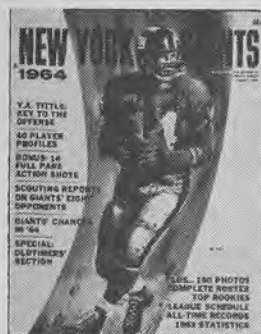
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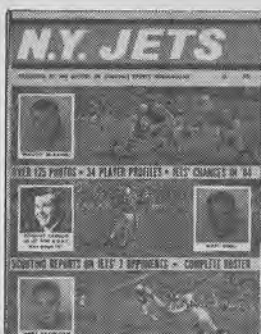
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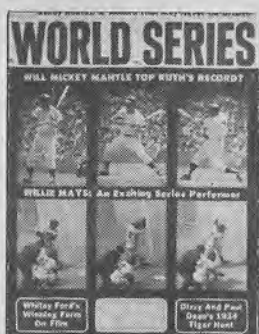
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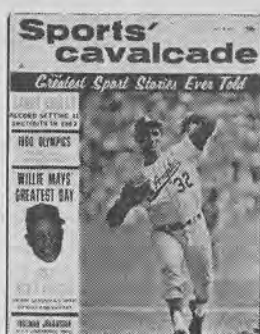
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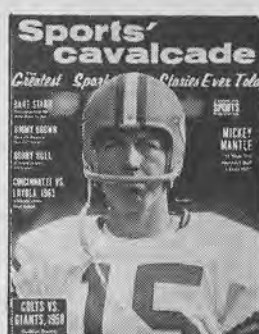
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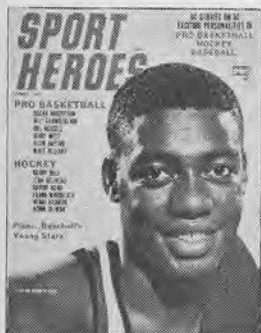
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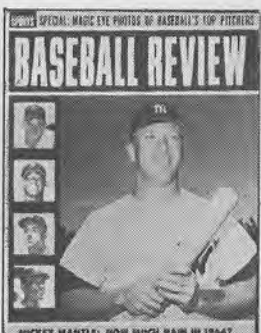
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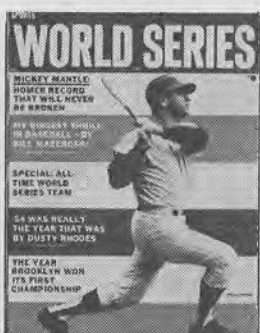
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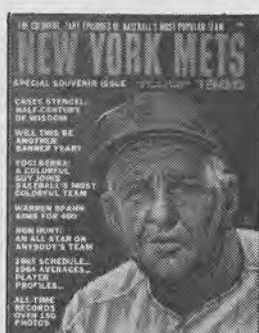
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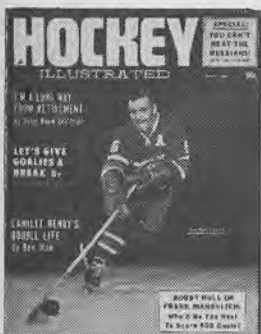
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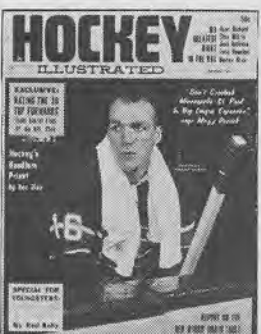
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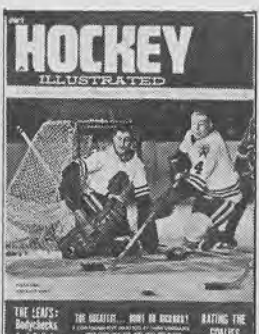
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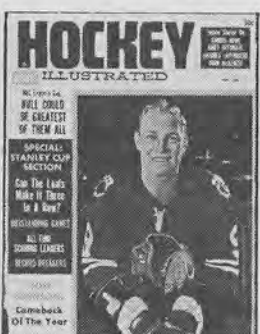
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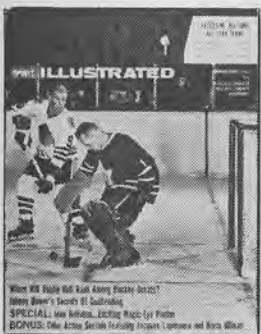
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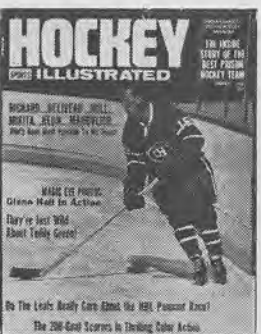
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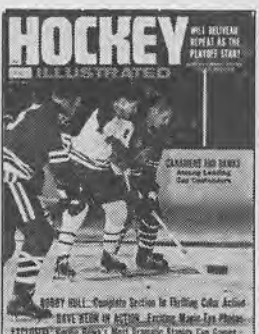
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- **Renewed Hair Growth**
- **Reduction of Excessive Hair Fall**
- **Relief from Dandruff Scale**
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*From "The Biology of Hair Growth," a summary of papers presented at the London conference on the Biology of Hair Growth as edited by Drs. William Montagna and Richard A. Ellis and published by Academic Press, Inc., New York and London.

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BEFORE

AFTER

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BEFORE

AFTER

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NOW, TODAY, PILE ON POUNDS F-A-S-T! No exercise! You simply drink on pounds! It's as simple as "A-B-C" to go on this modern weight gaining spree!

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If **Crash Weight No. 7** doesn't work for you, return the No. 7 canisters in their original package, and I'LL SEND YOUR MONEY BACK!

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Dept. 154-96H

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